EAST BAY EXPRESS

AUGUST 11-17, 2010 EASTBAYEXPRESS.COM

Great Expectations

Tough standards at Berkeley's Crowden School turn middle-school students into seasoned chamber music performers.

By [illegible]

CULTURE SPY 15

ECO WATCH 6

LEVEE "REPAIR" THREATENS DELTA FISH

Federal plans to cut down trees and remove shrubs from levees will remove vital shade needed for fish habitat.

By Robert Gammon

California's salmon and steelhead populations are on the brink of collapse. And a new federal policy, formulated in the wake of Hurricane Katrina could finally send the fragile fisheries into the abyss. Beginning next month the US Army Corps of Engineers will start enforcing new regulations requiring that trees be cut down and vegetation removed from levees on the nation's waterways. The rules are a part of a national effort to upgrade levees and prevent disastrous floods. The corps came under heavy criticism when poorly maintained levees broke in New Orleans in August 2005. *Story inside*

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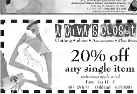
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On the Cover *Hannah Kardel.* *Photo by Will McGrath.*

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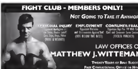
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NEWS & OPINION

EAST BAY EXPRESS
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LETTERS

Corrections and Clarifications

Thank you for your article. It's a very well written piece. I appreciate the overall tone of the article and how in essence it reflected much of what I was thinking. I would like to issue a few clarifications and if possible, would love to see it published.

My name was spelled incorrectly. It is "Cecilia" with an "i" in the middle, not an "e." It was correct in the first reference — but changed in subsequent references (including the photo).

A significant information that was not mentioned was that I was a small business owner in San Francisco for over twenty years. I believe that will explain the context of why I have confidence in the business community. It does not have to be corporate. It will just have to be businesses that will serve the Berkeley community and keep those business taxes within the city. In case I did not clarify — my office (ZesTop Design) in San Francisco was on Market Street (corner Castro Street) for twelve years and moved to downtown SF at Market and Powell Street for the last eight years. I closed the business office just the end of last month. I intend to move my business here in Berkeley, but will wait to work on that until after the election.

Another important note — what I said about funding for the pools is the creation of a nonprofit foundation. I did not say corporation. I hope this correction can be posted.

Cecilia "Cec" Rosales

Smart Meter: Dangerous Too? News, 7/21

Great Job

Thank you for your *STELLAR* report on Smart Meters. You have done a fantastic job articulating a difficult and controversial subject.

Sandi Maurer, Sebastopol

Because Grant Was Black

What is totally clear about all of the civil unrest over Oscar Grant is that if a black man had shot and killed Grant, there would be no commotion whatsoever. There are dozens of young black men shot and killed in Oakland every year with no outrage, no riots, no looting, and burning coming from the black community. Just another day in Oakland. The murder of Chauncey Bailey comes to mind, and all of the hellish activities of Bey and his Black Muslim Bakery associates that the murder brought to light. Not a bit of protest in the streets over an innocent reporter being brutally gunned down. Oh wait, Bailey was killed by a black man, and Bey is black, so nothing to raise hell about, is there? Doesn't make sense to scream for "justice," or accuse Bey and company of racism, does it?

No, we'll save that energy for the Oscar Grant protest, since the man holding the gun was a white cop. That's a gold mine of white guilt that the black community can use. Blame Whitey and cash in on white guilt. That's the answer. And it works!!! Got blacks affirmative action, the CETA program back in the 1980s, school busing, and all the other expensive social programs aimed at blacks. It's unfortunate that racism is a strategy that works. For decades it got whites in the South what they wanted, segregation. These days, blacks are using racism to get what they want, which they call "justice." Justice for Oscar Grant, like justice for O.J. Simpson. It's all just another name for a focus on skin color. The Oscar Grant protesters are mentally no different than the white rednecks in the South who were so opposed to desegregation. Only the skin color has changed.

Only one problem here. It's the exact opposite of Martin Luther King's famous statement that people should be judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin. The Oscar Grant protest is about skin color and nothing else. Grant was black, Mehserle is white, that's all the protesters need to know. Don't care about Oscar Grant's character, or Mehserle's, that's got nothing to do with the situation. It's a sad commentary on the state of race relations in Oakland.

Rich Clark, Oakland

Joyce Gordon Gallery, Museums &

Solid Review

Thank you for DeWitt Cheng's solid review of *Glimpses in Time* exhibit at the Joyce Gordon Gallery. It was a busy but fun evening for all the artists and staff involved.

Walter Atkins, El Sobrante

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Letters Policy

Please provide your full name, address, and daytime phone number, although we will only print your name, city, and affiliation. Send submissions to Letters@EastBayExpress.com or Letters, *East Bay Express*, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA 94607. Letters are edited for length and clarity.

BERKELEY COUPLE WINS GAY MARRIAGE FIGHT

The historic ruling by federal judge Vaughn Walker proves that Kristin Perry and Sandy Stier were right to challenge Prop 8

By Robert Gammon

When **Kristin Perry** and **Sandy Stier** of Berkeley filed their historic lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of **Proposition 8**, some gay and lesbian activists criticized them. The cause of gay marriage would be better served at the ballot box, the critics said. But Stier and Perry, along with the **American Foundation for Equal Rights**, were convinced they had a winning strategy. They had two of the nation's best lawyers on their side — liberal **David Boies** and conservative **Ted Olson**, who had squared off in ***Bush v. Gore***. And they knew the anti-gay-marriage forces had no legal leg to stand on.

Last week's ruling by US District Court Judge **Vaughn Walker** validated their decision to ignore their critics. In a scathing and meticulously argued 138-page repudiation of Prop 8, Walker ruled that the anti-gay marriage measure approved by California voters in 2008 violated both the **Due Process** and **Equal Protection** clauses of the **Fourteenth Amendment** of the **US Constitution** — and thus was illegal.

Walker agreed with the arguments proffered by Olson and Boies during the trial, and penned a point-by-point rebuttal to the often-absurd assertions made by the anti-gay-marriage side. He ruled that gays and lesbians were not trying to obtain some "new right" under the law as the Prop 8 supporters had contended. Instead, Walker ruled that under the Constitution's Due Process clause, gays and lesbians were seeking to exercise their fundamental right to marry.

"Plaintiffs do not seek recognition of a new right," the judge wrote in one of numerous memorable passages in the decision. "To characterize plaintiffs' objective as 'the right to same-sex marriage' would suggest that plaintiffs seek something different from what opposite-sex couples across the state enjoy — namely, marriage. Rather, plaintiffs ask California to recognize their relationships for what they are: marriages."

The judge also ruled that the state has no legitimate interest in excluding gays and lesbians from marrying. Walker repeatedly ridiculed the anti-gay marriage argument that the basis of marriage is to promote "procreation." The judge noted that no law anywhere requires heterosexual couples to prove that they can have children before getting hitched.

The judge also noted that there is no proof that children are better off with opposite-sex parents. Indeed, he pointed out that even the losing side agreed that children suffer emotionally and psychologically when their parents aren't allowed to marry. "Proposition 8 cannot withstand any level of scrutiny under the Equal Protection Clause, as excluding same-sex couples from marriage is simply not rationally related to a legitimate state interest," he wrote.

Walker also ruled that Prop 8 discriminates on the basis of gender. He noted that the measure prohibited a woman from marrying another woman simply because she is a woman. "Having considered the evidence, the relationship between sex and sexual orientation and the fact that Proposition 8 eliminates a right only a gay man or a lesbian would exercise, the court determines that plaintiffs' equal protection claim is based on sexual orientation, but this claim is equivalent to a claim of discrimination based on sex," the judge wrote.

Right-wing pundits immediately called the judge a liberal activist who ignored the will of the people. In reality, he is a careful jurist who was nominated to the bench by the first **President Bush**. The right also contended that Walker should have recused himself because he is gay. From their perspective, only heterosexuals are qualified to judge whether gays and lesbians have been victims of discrimination.

In truth, attorneys for the anti-gay marriage forces knew they had put on a pathetic case at trial and had expected Walker's decision. They even asked the judge before the ruling came out if he would not enforce it while they appealed. Walker agreed to hear arguments on the issue, and then in a somewhat surprising move, Republican Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** parted ways with the anti-gay marriage crowd and urged the judge to order that gay and lesbian couples begin receiving marriage licenses right away.

In the end, Perry and Stier's case probably will be decided by the **US Supreme Court**. Some of the same critics who decried their lawsuit are concerned that the conservative court is not ready to sanction gay marriages. But the lesbian couple from Berkeley may still have a winning strategy. They now have a brilliantly written and painstakingly sourced decision from a Republican-appointed judge. They have a Republican governor arguing their side. And their attorney, Olson, may give conservative justices on the high court the political cover they need to rule in their favor. After all, when Olson was US solicitor general under the second President Bush, the right-leaning justices routinely issued rulings agreeing with him.

Three-Dot Roundup

Oakland Mayor **Ron Dellums** will not seek reelection. His decision was expected and marked an end to a disappointing tenure in which he was often detached from the many problems facing the city. ... Dellums, however, still has support in the black and progressive communities and both Councilwomen **Rebecca Kaplan** and **Jean Quan** are seeking his endorsement. ... The city officially launched the free Broadway shuttle connecting Uptown to Jack London Square. ... A judge ordered **AC Transit** management to rescind a cost-cutting contract imposed on bus drivers while the issue is before an independent arbitrator. ... **SunCal** sued the **City of Alameda** for alleged breach of contract following the city council's decision to kill the developer's controversial plan for the former **Naval Air Station**. ... And the Marin County town of Fairfax banned **PG&E's SmartMeters** in part because of health concerns related to electromagnetic radiation. ●

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Seven Days is culled from our news blog, 92510.

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ECO WATCH

LEVEE "REPAIR" THREATENS FISH

Federal plans to cut down trees and remove shrubs from levees will remove vital shade needed for fish habitat.

By Robert Gammon

California's salmon and steelhead populations are on the brink of collapse. And a new federal policy formulated in the wake of **Hurricane Katrina** could finally send the fragile fisheries into the abyss.

Beginning next month, the **US Army Corps of Engineers** will start enforcing new regulations requiring that trees be cut down and vegetation removed from levees on the nation's waterways. The rules are a part of a national effort to upgrade levees and prevent disastrous floods. The corps came under heavy criticism when poorly maintained levees broke in New Orleans in August 2005.

But environmentalists say that trees and shrubs provide critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. Trees along the **Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta**, for example, provide much-needed shade that keeps waterways cool for salmon and steelhead. "It's a one-size-fits-all attempt by the corps to respond to Hurricane Katrina, but it's not necessarily based on what is needed," said **Jeff Miller** of the **Center for Biological Diversity**.

Last week, the center notified the corps that it plans to file suit to stop the new regulations from going forward. The center also argues that the corps has ignored recent studies showing that deep-rooted trees and shrubs can strengthen levees — not harm them. In a letter earlier this year to the corps, the **California Central Valley Flood Control Association**, which represents seventy levee operators, made the same point. "In addition to their obvious ecological and species benefits," the group wrote, "recent slope stabilization studies indicate that vegetation can also provide structural integrity to the core of the levee and help stabilize the earthen material to adverse conditions."

Environmentalists say the corps has turned federal environmental laws on their head. Typically, government agencies must conduct thorough reviews before implementing new policies that might harm the environment. But with its new regulations, the corps is requiring levee operators to conduct a review before they can receive a "variance" from having to implement them. Without a variance, levee operators could be fined or lose precious federal dollars. Corps officials in Sacramento did not return phone calls seeking comment for this story.

The Center for Biological Diversity contends that the September 30 deadline is not enough time to conduct environmental studies on the effects of clear-cutting levees. The center also contends the corps should have consulted first with **US Fish and Wildlife Service** and the **National Marine Fisheries Service** before adopting the new rules. ●

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FULL DISCLOSURE

PERATA NEARING EXPENDITURE CAP

Campaign finance records show that the ex-state senator has already spent 85 percent of the money he's allowed to spend on the Oakland mayor's race

By Robert Gammon

The Oakland mayor's race officially got underway this week when candidates filed their election papers with the City Clerk's Office for the November ballot. Between now and Election Day, the candidates will be busy campaigning and raising money. But one candidate — **Don Perata** — won't be able to spend anywhere near as much as his competitors. The reason? Through June 30 the ex-state senator had already spent $322,000 on his mayoral campaign and can only spend another $57,000 before going over Oakland's $379,000 campaign expenditure cap for the mayor's race.

Typically, political candidates in Oakland wait to spend most of their money on mailers and other ads in the weeks immediately before an election. Indeed, it's hard to remember a circumstance in which a local candidate had spent 85 percent of the total money he's allowed to spend with four months still to go. "It's very unusual," said **Ralph Kanz,** former chair of the **Oakland Public Ethics Commission.** "I've never seen that strategy before."

A review of campaign finance records shows that Perata has spent most of his money so far on well-paid political consultants, and has little to show for it. He has only put out a few mailers and held a few events, and will have virtually no money left when the campaign starts to get heated this fall.

By contrast, one of his main rivals, Councilwoman **Jean Quan,** had only spent about $26,000 through June 30. Plus, Quan is sitting atop a $175,000 war chest. She also plans to continue fund-raising and city law allows her to spend $353,000 between now and November — more than six times more than Perata. Quan has raised $201,000 so far, and she said in an interview that she plans to reach the spending cap by November 2, even if she has to loan her campaign more money. She has loaned her campaign $60,000 so far, while Perata has loaned $40,000 to his.

Meanwhile, Councilwoman **Rebecca Kaplan,** the other major candidate in the race, just started raising money in the past few months after launching her mayoral bid this spring. By June 30, she had raised a little more than $50,000 and spent about $25,000. That means Kaplan can also spend more than $350,000 between now and Election Day under city law, provided that her fund-raising goes well.

Perata's profligate spending, meanwhile, raises questions as to how he expects to win this November. "It really does make one wonder what he plans to do," Kaplan said.

Is Perata simply running an inept campaign? Or is he going to rely heavily on so-called "independent expenditure" committees or political committees that he controls to help him win election? If so, then he's effectively planning to wage an illegal campaign. It is unlawful under city and state law for a candidate to coordinate with independent committees to win election. It's also illegal under city and state law for a candidate to use a political committee he controls — beyond his own campaign committee — to get elected.

As this newspaper has previously reported, Perata's use of his cancer-research ballot measure committee, **Hope 2010**, has already raised questions as to whether he's using that account to help him win the mayor's office (see "The Cancer in the Oakland Mayor's Race," 6/16/2010). Perata houses both the Hope 2010 campaign and his mayoral campaign in the same Oakland headquarters and he's using several of the same political consultants on both campaigns.

Perata's campaign manager **Larry Tramutola** did not return a phone call seeking comment for this story, but the former senator has previously maintained that he keeps the two campaigns separate. However, his continued use of the Hope 2010 account is raising more eyebrows in Oakland because he recently decided to postpone his statewide cancer-research initiative until November 2012. That means he's spending tens of thousands of dollars on consultants now (who also happen to work on his mayoral campaign) for a measure that won't go to voters for more than two years.

Perata also recently received help from a shadowy new Sacramento group — **Coalition for a Safer California** — that has close ties to him. The group used prison guards' union money to blanket Oakland with mailers criticizing Kaplan and Quan after they advocated for Oakland police officers to begin paying part of their pensions. "There's no way you can run for mayor of Oakland without doing mailers this fall, and that means his mailers are going to be coming from other committees," Quan said of Perata. "And he's obviously using his cancer committee staffers for his mayoral campaign. It's sort of a blatant, spit-in-your-face violation of all the campaign laws."

There's also the possibility that Perata merely plans to violate the city's campaign expenditure cap. If so, he might be the first, according to **Dan Purnell**, the longtime executive director of the Oakland Public Ethics Commission. The reason appears to be simple — the fines are costly. Violators of the city-imposed cap can be fined up to three times the amount they overspend, Purnell said. That means if Perata spends $50,000 more than the cap, he could be fined $150,000.

Finally, it should be noted that Perata has already raised more money than the expenditure limit. He's raised at least $416,000 in his mayoral bid — when counting both this year and last year. However, there is no cap on how much money he can raise. As a result, he's free to solicit as many contributions as he wants, but he won't be able to spend them on getting elected mayor this year. He will, however, be able to use the money for political expenses after the election, such as expensive trips, stays at posh hotels, and dining at fine restaurants.

In other words, if Perata tells you he needs a contribution to help him get elected this November, he's lying. He's already raised more than enough money and he can't legally spend what you give him on this year's election. However, if you want to help him live large once he's mayor, then by all means, cut him a check. ●

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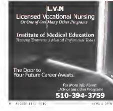
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LEGALIZATION NATION

CITIZENS OUTSPENDING COPS ON PROP 19

The campaign to legalize cannabis is attracting much more money than opponents, but backer Richard Lee worries that it might not be enough.

By David Downs

Hundreds of California citizens allied with the state's medical cannabis industry outspent law enforcement establishment by a ratio of five to one on the effort to roll back eighty years of pot prohibition in the now-broke Golden State. Campaign finance reports released last week show **Tax Cannabis 2010** received $176,430 in monetary contributions from this period, which covers April 1 to June 30, 2010, and also received $37,609 in non-monetary contributions for a total of $214,040. The drug law reform group has an ending cash balance of $61,933 after expenditures.

Oakland businessperson **Richard Lee's Oaksterdam University** shipped in at least $40,000 during the reporting period and total overall contributions from the school now total $1.46 million. Medical cannabis groups like **Berkeley Patients Group** and delivery service **The Canna-Bus** also have donated funds. **Jeff Wilcox** and his marijuana cultivation corporation **AgraMed**, who pushed for cultivation permits in Oakland, donated to **Proposition 19** as well as Councilwoman **Nancy Nadel**, who gave $125. **NORML's Dale Gieringer** gave more than $10,000, while **George Zimmer** of the **Men's Wearhouse** contributed another $500 to his total contributions of $20,500.

The large volume of contributions came from hundreds of regular citizens across the state and country who are employed as teachers and engineers. One Stinson Beach resident listed his occupation as "alchemist."

California's official law enforcement opposition group, known as **Public Safety First**, reported about $61,000 in contributions. The largest donors, the **California Police Chiefs Association**, which gave $30,000, and the **California Narcotics Officer's Association**, which contributed $20,000. Public Safety First's largest expenditure to date has gone to campaign consultants the **Wayne Johnson Agency** in Sacramento. Public Safety First has about $18,000 cash on hand. A **RAND Corporation** study showed California would spend roughly $300 million less on law enforcement and incarceration if it stopped arresting about 60,000 Californians for pot each year.

As previously reported, about $100,000 in new funds supporting Prop 19 has come from an East Coast libertarian who formed the **Drug Policy Alliance Network Committee to Tax and Regulate Marijuana**. All other groups supporting and opposing Prop 19 did not e-file campaign finance reports, indicating negligible funds.

Lee has said it could take $10 million to wage an advertising campaign on behalf of the measure, which is either winning or losing by a few points, depending on poll methodology. He recently told **AlterNet** that fund-raising for the campaign was "off track," and that a one-on-one grassroots campaign would replace costly ad buys.

Cannabis Cash in Mayor's Race

The city of Oakland's mainstreaming of medical marijuana has extended to its mayoral races, where leading cannabis dispensaries, hydroponics stores, and the Prop 19 campaign are showing up in campaign finance disclosures for mayoral candidates **Rebecca Kaplan**, **Jean Quan** and **Don Perata**.

Tax Cannabis 2010 volunteer coordinator **Jennifer Hall** donated the maximum personal amount of $700 to Kaplan's campaign, as did **Dan Rush** of the **UFCW Local 5**, who recently helped unionize Oaksterdam. Potential Oakland cultivator Jeff Wilcox of AgraMed also donated the maximum of $700 to Kaplan, while dispensary **Green Mind Gardens** of El Cerrito donated a symbolic $420 and UFCW Local 5's political action committee donated $250.

As for Quan, she received $700 from Oakland hydroponics retailer **iGrow**. Owner **Dhar Mann** has also expressed interest in obtaining a coveted cultivation permit.

And longtime Oakland politico **Don Perata** received $400 this year and $100 last year from **SK Seymour LLC**, which is Oaksterdam owner Lee's company. Lee also donated $10,000 last year to a cancer initiative set up by Perata. AgraMed employee **Martin Kaufman** donated $700 this year to the Perata campaign. Interestingly, natural enemies of medical cannabis like cops and pharmaceutical companies also donated to Perata. The **Peace Officers Research Association of California** gave $1,300 to Perata through their PAC, and the **Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers Association of America** chipped in $600 to Perata's mayoral campaign.

Can 'Just Say Now' Pot The Vote?

A new national campaign to legalize adult use of cannabis launched last week, called **"Just Say Now."** The DC-based group intends to turn out the youth vote this November in states where marijuana is an issue, including California. 2010 is a midterm election, meaning a significant drop-off in the liberal voters who elected Obama in 2008, but Just Say Now aims to counter that trend by unleashing the group **Students for Sensible Drug Policy** on college campuses.

Weed may be a wedge issue that turns out youth voters in states where it matters, says *This Is Your Country on Drugs* author **Ryan Grim** on the **Huffington Post**. Additionally, Congressman **Barney Frank** told *The New York Times* that national decriminalization/legalization is less than five years away. ●

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This column is culled from our blog of the same name.

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Michel Taddei with the Crowden School's Lower School Orchestra

Great Expectations

Tough standards turn middle-school students into seasoned chamber music performers at Berkeley's Crowden School

By Kibby Kleiman

A big sound was coming from the orchestra in the Dalby Room, where more than forty instruments were playing. But conductor **Eugene Sor** didn't think they were playing all that well. Sor, the principal cellist of the **Stockton Symphony** and conductor of a string orchestra in Palo Alto, towered over the musicians, shaking his head. "I like your first note," he said, "and then I didn't like any of the rest of them."

Over the next half hour, this was one of the gentler comments Sor had for his musicians. "What's your dynamic?" he challenged the cellists. "What's *happening*?" he asked rhetorically, stopping the violists after three notes. "This requires you count to *four*, not three," he scolded. "Play it again," he said to the violinists. "A little less sloppy this time."

Sor's admonitions might seem intimidating to any musician — let alone a group of middle-schoolers. But these young players didn't look downcast. They looked focused, maybe even inspired. They sat up straight, and played on. Sor snapped his fingers and stomped his foot.

After the students struggled through the piece, Sor offered tempered praise. "I like the attitude," he said. "The notes aren't all there but I like the attitude."

At the end of the practice session, Sor (or "Eugene," as he's known to the kids) left his pupils with a sentiment they say is typical of his style: "I like you," he said as they departed. "I just don't like what you're doing to the music." The kids smiled.

Such comments may sound harsh, but they're routine at **The Crowden School**, a small middle school in Berkeley that combines academics with a rigorous program in chamber music instruction. While most schools have been forced to lower standards in order to focus on getting students to pass standardized tests, Crowden has done just the opposite — and to positive effect. Contrary to what has become conventional wisdom in education, the students at Crowden don't melt into puddles when confronted with sharp, direct critiques; they respond.

Later that day, some of Sor's students said they actually revel in their status as his whipping boys and girls. "When you're in the fourth or fifth grade, they're really nice to you; they cut you some slack, but by the time you're in the sixth grade, they expect more out of you," said Benjamin Pronets. "But by then, you're ready for it."

Serena Witherspoon agreed. "I like it," she said. "I like when your teachers push you hard." Classmate Sean Woodruff said, "It puts more pressure on you, and for sure you're going to be a lot more scared. But I know it helps us get to the right place faster."

No one in the group thought that Sor didn't like them. Though it was never explicitly said, it seemed that the students knew that he does in fact like them, but that they have much further to go in satisfying their conductor, and that is what they're reaching for. They can do better, and they will if their teacher demands it. Their sense of self appears to hinge on whether they do well. There are no gold stars given out. But it's almost as if that fact forces them to try harder.

It's hardly a novel concept, but at The Crowden School it's never been forgotten.

It's possible to drive past The Crowden School without knowing a school is even there. One might assume that it's part of Jefferson Elementary, its neighbor. But it's actually part of a bigger complex, **Crowden Music Center**, home of music lessons, choirs and concerts. For the past twelve years, it has been the home of a middle school for grades four through eight, originally started by Scottish-born violinist **Anne Crowden** and currently housed on the corner of Rose and Sacramento streets in North Berkeley.

The Crowden School began in a smaller locale in 1983 with a total of eleven students, and moved to its current location in 1998. It is still small, though that is by design, with room for eighteen students per class (its student body totals 72).

"Our most common musical model here is the ensemble, and that wasn't chosen accidentally," explained Crowden principal and English teacher **Brad Johnson**. "If they don't work hard, they disappoint the group. We use that same motivation in our classroom."

Students at Crowden begin their day with two hours of musical instruction, and then continue their school day with what might be regarded as the more typical curriculum: math, science, English, history, art, and foreign language. "It's not a music conservatory, it's a school," Johnson says; the academic classes are decidedly not musically oriented. "It's not like the science of music or reading about musicians, or the mathematics of music," he said. "We don't want that. We expect their classrooms to function as English class or history class. They get enough music."

Students also are expected to take private music lessons after school at least once a week, and that, too, affects them as learners. "They're very experienced working one-on-one with adults or in very small groups," said Johnson. "Of course that also means that they are far less willing to sit back and take in everything a teacher says if they have a question or comment."

But why classical music? And why middle school? **Lisa Grodin**, music director of Crowden, might have asked the same question herself when she was a ten-year-old Berkeley public school student signing up for her first music lesson with Anne Crowden. Grodin, one of several administrators who also teach, said that students in grades four through eight are "uniquely flexible and open."

Which is not to say that the music training has no influence over their class work; it is the soundtrack to the day. Grodin says that developmentally, becoming involved in music at this age was important for her, and is to her young charges. "The students at this age are ready for a real challenge," she said. "They are beginning to develop the ability to do something that they won't get right away and that it's not going to be equally easy for all of them. Most schools never throw out that challenge."

Grodin says that a music education teaches delayed gratification, which for ten- to fourteen-year-olds is exactly the right time to introduce that concept. "Being frustrated and to still keep working, that's what they learn here," she said. "It's tough for them. It's tough for adults, too."

There's a stereotype that middle-school students have all kinds of energy, and most of it is pointless. Grodin knows that they're pubescent and, as a result, driven to focus on [illegible] adolescent impulses. But she says schools need to tap into those drives, and believes Crowden has found a way to do so. "They're emotional and that's going to come out one way or the other," she said. "Music gives them a more creative and I think satisfying way to express themselves."

Gredin speaks of her own learning as a time of incredible growth. "There was brain development, motor skills, and discipline and that was huge, but what I came out with, and what we want our students to walk out of here with, is a kind of grace no matter what direction their lives take them," she said. "Anne said it and we stand by it: we're not out to create virtuoso musicians, we create virtuoso children."

Crowden Music Center Executive Director **Doris Fukawa** uses sports metaphors to explain the setup at The Crowden School, at times describing a certain configuration as "like a football team with everybody having their own routes to run" or illustrating an example by saying, "you can't play HORSE by yourself." Like a coach, Fukawa expects not every effort will result in success, but that there are scoreboards for a reason. "You either catch the ball or you don't," she said in reference to performance arts. She also has a piano in her office, which she uses to punctuate some of her points.

Like most Crowden teachers, she remains a musician, playing freelance gigs with local orchestras. Unlike most, she didn't have a background in chamber music. "I was a typical Berkeley school kid," said Fukawa, who grew up in the Seventies. "No Shakespeare, no Latin, no museums." Luckily, she connected with **Vince Gomez**, who led **Berkeley High School**'s chorus and directed her to Anne Crowden, who was then making a name for herself developing young musicians. "These were adults putting their faith into our generation of music, dance, and art," Fukawa recalled. She was assisted by scholarships that paid for lessons and instruments. "I wanted to play and I was fortunate to find people willing to take a chance on a no-pedigree person like myself." After getting comfortable with some solo work, Fukawa was put into a group. "That's where my learning really took off," she said. "I learned to listen. I learned to work as a team. That was the training that we do here."

When Anne Crowden relinquished day-to-day control of the school a decade ago, the institution suffered what Fukawa described as "a crisis of leadership" that resolved when she returned from her traveling musical career to take the reins. "I knew management and I knew the institution," she said. "I wanted us to be an East Bay presence, and a resource as well."

Fukawa pushes Crowden students into musical service, playing at ribbon cuttings, civic ceremonies, and, in the past two years, in choruses throughout the Bay Area. "I want us to be multi-talented and I want us to stand out," she said.

And what would Anne Crowden, who died in 2004, think of her namesake school today? "I think she would be happy," said Fukawa. "I think she would be proud to see that our school demographics are looking more and more like the whole Bay Area. I think she would be pleased that we are still surviving and flourishing, and developing a regional presence." Then she paused. "But she would recognize our struggles too. How do we maintain our financial stability? Is it sustainable when there are so few students who grow up with classical music? How do we prove to those outside our school community that an education in chamber music is relevant?"

Like her mentor, Fukawa measures success not in the number of professional musicians who emerge ("maybe 2 percent will eventually be pros," she said) but how they emerge as people. "Music forms relationships," she said. "The music is greater than the individual, and that's not a real popular 21st-century notion." Fukawa notes that the seventh- and eighth-grade classes go on tour every other year in the summer, performing concerts. "You see how adults and other kids grasp onto them. They can't believe that these kids produce this magnificent thing. And that's when it hits our kids. We really reach people."

Fukawa says she's not surprised at the successes her students reach after leaving the school. "The high schools like that our kids think out of the box, that they have a measured perspective of what they can do, a confidence and a work ethic. I love that we get students who play for years afterward." She says former students get together with friends and still play. "Not just the ones who go onto conservatories, but those that go to law school or become teachers. They form their own ensembles and play in quartets, everyone takes their turns and has a part."

Then she moved to the piano and said, "Did you know Beethoven was inspired to write his Eroica because of Napoleon Bonaparte? He thought that Napoleon at the time represented equality and democracy. Beethoven thought that it should be celebrated with a composition that treated all voices equally." The director started to play for an audience of one. "This is

Public performance is one hallmark of the school's approach [illegible]

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the New World Symphony, the last movement," she said while ringing the room with music. "It was Dvorak's and he said it was inspired by this country, which he adopted towards the end of his life." She played for some time and we both lost track of how much. She looked up when the piece ended and her visitor did, too. "It grabs you, doesn't it?"

The loveliest room at The Crowden School is the auditorium, which serves as a concert hall, practice room and dance floor as needed. On the stage on a recent morning was the Lower School orchestra. They were bathed in a yellow light filtered by a high window and catching the dust to create an almost tangible glow.

The fourth and fifth graders were under the direction of **Rem Djemilev** who, like many of the Crowden faculty, has a résumé that makes teaching an eleven-year-old to stop waving his bow around seem like using a cannon to take out a house fly. Yet Djemilev's master's degree from the **Moscow Conservatory** and time as a player in the **Bolshoi** don't seem to make him too lofty to wait patiently for Maria to find the "A" on her violin.

Tomorrow is the orchestra's first performance and that will soon be routine for these kids. For the fourteen rookies on stage at the moment, conductor Djemilev will coach them through every step.

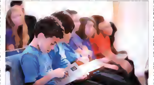
"Then there will be applause," he told his orchestra. "Then I'll bow."

He had the students play the piece through and noticed something that he wanted to fix right away. He paused to word the question precisely. And then he asked it with a small smile: "Is Mozart happy or sad here?"

The kids were made bashful by the simple-sounding question. "He's happy," one tentatively answered. Djemilev whispered something inaudible back in response. His students grinned and began playing. Djemilev waited for them to finish, which they did with a lot more confidence, and said, "It might be necessary that I will need to bow again."

Performance is a constant at Crowden. Rarely does a month pass without a public appearance. They play for their teachers, their peers and their parents. Principal Johnson says that the element of performance is one main thing that stands out at Crowden. "There is nothing else like it," he said. "Our students, our staff and our school are measured by it."

It's also the one element of Crowden that could be replicated at a large public institution. "When you set a date and a time to be ready and others will be there to watch you, that's something that anybody can do," said Johnson. "You have to take it out of the classroom and put it out there. Students will rise to that standard."



Students say the school's challenges drive them to succeed

And if they don't? What if the piece isn't ready, what if they fail, let their classmates down and perform badly? He shrugged. "Then they will have opportunities to do it again. That starts from the time a student begins here."

At Crowden, students flub notes on a regular basis. In the beginning, all they make are mistakes. And having mastered a piece of music, they are then rewarded with a tougher piece. An ensemble they work well with is then scrambled, and they find themselves put in with a quartet of students who they haven't played with. Students have instruments removed from their hands and then repositioned.

Johnson says the link between music and learning is there but not in the ways that people think. "The Mozart effect?" He shook his head. "I don't put much stock in that. There's nothing inherently beneficial from listening to music before entering school. But that doesn't mean the learning of music has no effect."

Johnson notes that the students are very good at symbolic language. "They have been working on a language for the past five years by the time they're in the eighth grade," he said. Learning an instrument teaches students discipline, he said, and they can work harder with less frustration, or at the very least learn to work through the roadblocks. He says that students practice for hours and have to be dedicated to do well. And their classmates are counting on them. "They're already experienced interacting with adults and they're also practiced at making mistakes."

That flies right into one of the great ironies of contemporary education, according to Johnson. The average middle-school student has racked up years of affirmation and confidence based on validation by teachers trained to provide ten words of praise for one word of criticism. As a consequence, educators have noted that those same students are particularly reluctant to reach out of their comfort zone, or to take chances where they might be less skilled. In other words, students afraid to fail also become afraid to take on challenges.

For fifth-grade cellist Michelle Mao, challenge is what drives her to succeed. She knows that the dynamics differ significantly depending on whether she's playing in an ensemble, performing solo or in an orchestra. She also knows that she will be paired with different musicians of varying talents and that she has "to be ready to work with whatever music they give me." She is particular about the charms of her chosen instrument and the discipline it requires to improve.

The most remarkable thing about Michelle is that at eleven years of age, she behaves as if there is nothing remarkable at all about her life, or having this very conversation. It's not like the kids at Crowden aren't silly or loud, or crude or immature. They crash into each other in the hallways, show poor judgment about the line between joshing and insulting one another, and think the same things are hilarious that eleven-year-olds everywhere do. But they look adults in the eye and talk about their craft without giggling or lecturing or apologizing.

Sixteen-year-old Niko Durr, a Crowden graduate, patiently explained his attitude toward his viola as opposed to his violin while a rambunctious tag game swirled around us. He laid out some music he had written and tried with patience, sincerity and enthusiasm to explain what looked like hieroglyphics to his visitor.

Niko, who now plays now with the **Young People's Symphony Orchestra**, always loved classical music, according to his mom, Anna Durr. "When we wanted to punish Niko we told him that he was going to his room and couldn't listen to any music," she said. But even after being recommended for the school by his piano teacher, he wasn't admitted to Crowden as a fourth grader. "We couldn't pay the tuition anyway," she recalled. "By the time we reapplied, we had scraped together enough money to get started and when they accepted Niko, I was a stay-at-home mom and did some volunteer work at the school in order to get some scholarship help."

His mother says that her son's blossoming at Crowden came from a will that was already deep in her boy. "I played an instrument when I was young, and I played classical music at home on the weekends," she said. "But I was not prepared for Niko's obsession. And the school just embraced him. Niko was never an academic scholar and struggled to match his classmates in core academic subjects, but at Crowden, he just got up there and the stage and performed. His confidence just took off and that resulted in a boy who is not afraid to do new things." And this happened during middle school. "Niko was constantly performing, always part of a group. I think the teachers there saw what he needed to fill his soul, and they provided it."

They also provide it for students who are not obsessed with the music they play. Eighth-grader Kahlen Gonzer didn't want to attend Crowden at first. "I wasn't really happy," he said on a recent afternoon among a group of his peers. Some had been in art schools, many had been taking lessons when they applied, a handful were public school refugees and a number of had never held a classical instrument. Serena Witherspoon auditioned with an electric guitar. Amory Mowrey joined the school in the eighth grade. "I was at a school that was supposed to be about music in the city but I was playing in

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Parents appreciate the school's rigorous approach

Kal McGrath

the orchestra blasting a B instead of a B flat and nobody said anything," said Mowrey. "I couldn't get away with that for one bar here."

The students excitedly described their daily regimen and how it changed them. Kaiden, the boy who didn't initially want to attend Crowden, now describes with great precision how discipline learned in his violin class is paying off in his academic classes. The students are in agreement about how the heavy time commitment has improved their time-management skills. "There just isn't enough time in the day," said Sean Woodruff, another student of the class of 2010. "You just have to get more efficient."

His classmate, Dennealeah Jones, concurred. "The teachers expect you to practice your ensemble piece, your orchestra part, your private lesson and your regular schoolwork. They expect you to do it all." She paused. "Somehow we do."

It's the Basically Baroque concert night, one of the significant events of the school year. On stage the violinists glance over to the violist, who nods in the direction of the cellist and the beautiful echo of Bach's Third Orchestral Suite in D Major begins. The four musicians play the lush movement and the audience literally moves, swaying gently in the direction of the bows. Tonight's program features sonatas, fugues, motets, and a number of other performances. Even a listener whose vocabulary to describe classical music is limited to "pretty" or "scary" can hear this performance as a little piece of magic. The strings play in pairs and then in unison. There are moments when the music just hangs in the air and then half moments when no music plays at all. The musicians dig in and perform with a confidence that allows audience members to close their eyes, like you might on an airplane flight, confident that you're in good hands and that the pilot will bring you home safely. The fact that this piece is being performed by musicians who are all of twelve and thirteen years old stops being a conscious thought at analogously the same time that the captain turns off the fasten seatbelt sign.

The four students will be part of a small orchestra later this evening, but this moment feels bigger and more personal. The kids have been given the stage and the evening. The adults who raised them and those that have been teaching them give them this moment alone. They've been left a significant task; their success or failure depends on their ability to pick up each other's cues, to watch their neighbor's movements and to be listening with a focus on concentration and a stamina that gives hope to the possibility that there may yet be a better way to teach young people, and it might look like this, and it might sound like an aria.

The skills that Crowden students develop sound like those that we expect middle-school students to master but never challenge them to do. The Crowden School doesn't always get masters, either. But it does drive students toward a standard that most find desirable for their children. The kids grow familiar with the concept of repetition not to prepare them for a life of drudgery and routine, but to be able to work at a task until it is honed and improved. The kids also work on listening, not so that they become order-takers and passive but so that they can hear the results of their own efforts and become more sensitive to those they work with.

Their concentration skills pay off everywhere. Elite high schools in the East Bay gobble up Crowden grads. The students also make a connection to something larger than themselves. Classical music is the heart of Crowden School. In our times, it is more of a niche product than a definition of an educated person, but it carries with it something deep and important. At this impressionable age in their lives, students spend hours imprinted with the sounds of centuries, complex and demanding; it seeps into their souls.

The quartet finishing the Bach piece shines from its accomplishment. The musicians may never become professionals; they may neglect and abandon their instruments, or even turn away from the music itself. But inside them the work lingers. Alice Eastman, the violist, looks at her quartet as its members shuffle past her. "When the bell rings at school," she said, "I want to harmonize with it." ●

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Yoram Savion at a dance exhibition at the 2010 *East Bay Express* Best of the East Bay party Stephen Loewinsohn

CULTURE SPY

HOME TURF GOES VIRAL

How East Oakland turf dancers became an Internet phenom

By Rachel Swan

It wasn't unusual for **Yoram Savion** to find himself standing in front of a liquor store at 90th and Bancroft avenues on a brittle Sunday night in December. Nor was it unusual for him to see police lights in the distance — this was East Oakland, after all. Not knowing the circumstances, Savion thought the lights would be a nice addition to the rap video he was shooting for the local MC **Mr. Smith**. Savion was creating the visual reenactment of Smith's "Ice Cold," a boastful, infectious rap with a bare-bones snare beat. He'd scouted the location, then assembled a small crew of turf dancers and extras to complete the scene's design. Everything came together: the desolate avenues, the low-slung buildings, the imposing liquor store windows. Dancers **ENinja Books**, **No Noize**, and **Wah Wah** did back flips and head spins on the sidewalk. Mr. Smith strutted in the foreground. Savion featured the police lights in one shot. They made a nice touch, he said.

The next day Savion went to **Youth Uprising**, an East Oakland teen center where he teaches film and multimedia production. Kids and staff members were all talking in somber tones about an incident that had occurred the night before on 90th and MacArthur — blocks away from where Savion was shooting the Mr. Smith video. A car had swerved, hitting a pole, then a tree, then a gate. The driver survived, but a passenger died. Police rushed to the scene, which explained why Savion saw all the lights.

The passenger was **Richard Davis**, half brother of **Darrell Armstead** — aka **Dreal**. Armstead is a popular turf dancer and friend of Savion. When Armstead got the news from the Youth Uprising staff, he crumpled.

So he and Savion decided to go back to the corner and film a turf dance tribute to Davis. They brought along three other members of Armstead's crew, **The Turf Feinz**. The dancers' intentions were simple. They wanted to memorialize Davis and sanctify the corner where he died. In the process, they unwittingly brought an East Oakland dance form to the international stage. Their video would become fodder for blog posts in Europe, local TV news stories, and endlessly regurgitated Tweet memes.

But on that December day, they were just making another RIP video. "It wasn't a new concept," Savion explained. "We shot it at the corner where they do their little shrine."

It was raining on the day of the "**RIP Rich D**" film shoot, and the crew members had hooded sweatshirts and black bandanas pulled over their eyes. Savion told dancers **Garson Morgan** (aka **No Noize**) and **Leon "Man" Williams Jr.** to position themselves on a far corner for the opening shot. "I wanted to film it from far away and get a shallow depth of field," he explained. "I wanted the background to be really out of focus." He put Dreal and **Tee "BJ" Stevens** on a closer corner. Then brandishing his new **Canon 7D** camera, Savion began filming. A man finished a cigarette and flicked it into a puddle near Man and No Noize. A police car rolled up to ask what they were doing. Savion caught it all in one take.

"You know that expression 'You know you're making history?'" he said later. "I felt that. Not in the context of being famous or being recognized, but in the context of just being there that day."

Son of an Israeli father and French mother, Savion spent his childhood in Brittany, a region in northwestern France. He immigrated to Berkeley at age seventeen, finished high school at San Francisco's French American School, and went to UC Berkeley. There, he cobbled together a major combining sociology, ethnic studies, history, art, and multimedia that he called "New Media, Art, and Social Change." During his junior year he took a class at the Graduate School of Journalism and began an investigative project on youth violence. That brought him to Youth Uprising, where he landed a part-time gig teaching workshops to inner-city teens. Within two years, he would helm the center's multimedia department.

In that capacity, Savion became the man behind-the-curtain at Youth Uprising. He made public service announcements, taught other staffers video and photography, and supplied content for the YU YouTube Channel YU Media LP ("A million views and counting," he brags.) He ultimately parlayed those skills into his own film company, launched with brother **Ben Tarquin**, **Kash Gaines**, and **Javier Ochoa**. The four christened their operation **Yak Films**. Their emphasis? Turf dancing.

Which brought them into a tight relationship with several East Oakland dancers. Turf dancing evolved gradually over the last decade, but it blew up in 2006 around the time of **E-40**'s "Tell Me When to Go" video. That's when Dreal came to the medium. A high school track star and football player, he has the lanky, rubber-band body of a ballerina. And he likes ballet, though he never tried it as a profession. "I couldn't see myself doing ballet because I have tattoos," he said. His neck is inked with red and black hearts dedicated to "Nai" and "my big sister Kit."

But for a turf dancer, Dreal looks typical. Most of the Turf Feinz wear dreadlocks, baseball caps, and metal tooth grills. Their pants sag well below the waistline. Yet their bodies are taut and agile. At the beginning of the "RIP Rich" video, Man and Noize pirouette out into the street, barely missing a gray Cadillac as it turns to the right. BJ answers with a series of body pops, making his arms and legs slither with reptilian grace. A beat by local producer **Erk Tha Jerk** thrums somberly in the background. It's no surprise the video caught on.

But fame didn't come instantaneously — it took a little marketing from Savion, who had the foresight to capitalize on his dual French citizenship by building a fan base in Europe. In March he took his camera to a huge French B-Boy event called **Juste Debout** and guerrilla filmed a three-minute montage. His video got so much traction that the producers eventually co-opted it as their trailer. Then they hired Yak Films to create a feature-length DVD.

Once Yak Films built its European platform, its videos became hot. A few months after Savion posted the "RIP Rich D" clip on YouTube, it landed on blogs in Denmark, France, and Germany. There it netted thousands of page views. Its popularity eventually ricocheted back home. Local blogs picked up the story. Critics and culture vultures began touting the new dance phenomenon. It even made the news on ABC-7. "So if you see these guys hanging out on the streets, they are not loitering," crowed anchor **Carolyn Tyler**. "They're turfin'!"

As of this writing, the video has garnered nearly 400,000 views. Savion and the other crew members are getting assignments in Brazil and Germany. The Turf Feinz are expanding their repertoire to include house music, Michael Jackson, and even ballet, Dreal said. But they're still grappling with the cops. ●

Watch the video at EastBayExpress.com

To video this story, type: ebx.by.jp/turffeinz

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EVENTS & ATTRACTIONS

Where the Girls Are

Girlstock celebrates female creativity in all its forms.

At first, **Maci Flowers** just wanted to throw a party. She was about to move out of her West Oakland warehouse, and with about 3,500 square feet at her disposal, she couldn't help but do something to celebrate the space. She invited all the artists and musicians she knew, enlisted a chef friend to cater, and decided to charge a modest fee and donate whatever money she made to a local nonprofit. She called it **Girlstock** — a nod, she said, to both her upbringing in the Haight-Ashbury district and to the event's female-centric ethos and lineup. She didn't expect all that many people to come, but about 200 strangers showed up, and now, eight years later, what began as a one-off warehouse party has blossomed into a full-scale annual benefit spread out over four days on both sides of the bay.

Sistas in the Pit

"I got enough interest, enough people asking me, 'Hey, when's the next Girlstock?'" Flowers said. "I figured, what the heck, I'll do it again." And she did, seven more times, each year gaining some organizational steam but retaining the party's original grassroots feel by planning and executing the whole thing almost entirely on her own, with the support of sponsors.

Every incarnation of Girlstock consists of an art opening, food, and music, but beyond that, the event's lineup and focus shift with whatever catches Flower's attention. Recently, for example, she's been obsessed with bellydance, so Saturday, August 21, features a performance by **Suhaila Salimpour's School of Bellydance**. This is one of the upsides of doing the whole thing as a homegrown operation: It's personal and dynamic, with none of the stale seriousness imparted by many benefits. The beneficiary, too, has changed each year, the common element being that Flowers aims to help smaller nonprofits. "I don't want to just be a drop in the bucket," she said. "I want to be able to be a significant help." In past years, the party's profits have gone to organizations that assist homeless youth, people living with HIV/AIDS, and Katrina victims; this year, Girlstock benefits the **Women's Cancer Resource Center**, a Bay Area organization that advocates for health care reform and provides services to women with cancer.

This year's Girlstock kicked off last weekend with an art opening and party at **Mama Buzz**, and a live music show at **Bottom of the Hill**. Saturday, August 14, features a live music show at the **Stork Club** (2330 Telegraph Ave., Oakland), with **Nazelah Jeffries** of the **Oakland Poetry Slam** emceeing a lineup including Brazilian bassist **Gil Holan**, singer-songwriter **Shelley Doty**, surf rockers **The Twinks**, Led Zeppelin tribute band **Delicate Pin**, and hard rock trio **Sistas in the Pit**, who recently toured with **Iggy Pop**. Girlstock finishes up next weekend with a poetry reading, live-art auction, and the aforementioned bellydance at the **Mina Dresden Gallery** (312 Valencia St., San Francisco).

While most of the performers are women and there's a feminist angle to the event, Flowers emphasizes that everyone's welcome — it's more about celebrating female creativity, loosely defined, than any kind of hard-and-fast political message. "Girlstock has never been about exclusivity," she said. "My tagline is, 'Everybody has a little Girlstock inside.' We're all in this together." Saturday, August 14, 6 p.m., $10-$40 sliding scale. Saturday, August 21, 5 p.m., free. 415-615-2322 or Girlstock.com.

— *Ellen Cushing*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/e/girlstock

ATTRACTIONS

American Iron Car Show Pre-1980s American cars are welcome to enter the competition in categories such as Best Paint, Best Motor, Best of Decade, Car Responsible for the all-in, Best Built-but Car, and more. Sun., Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. Pleasant Hill Community Center, 320 Civic Dr., Pleasant Hill, 925-676-5200.

The Butterfly Garden & Open Join Jan Southworth to wander the peaceful pathways, watch hummingbirds and butterflies, and learn about butterfly gardening. Second Saturday of every month, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000 Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont, 510-795-9385. ebParks.org.

Oakland Harvest Marketplace Featuring handmade jewelry, sculptures, ceramics, paintings, photography, dolls, soaps, clothing, floral arrangements, greeting cards, and more. Info: 510-238-4920. Fridays, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., free. Frank Ogawa Plaza, at 14th and Broadway sts., Oakland.

Once Upon A Time, Happily Ever After... Three-part public art project by Scott Shaw. With a self-guided audio walking tour August 8 through November 14, 10am-4pm, a sale at special Lake Merritt locations Saturdays and Sundays, 10am-4pm, and an installation coming later in the year. Through Nov. 14, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Free. Lake Merritt, 680 Bellevue Ave., Oakland. 510-238-1785. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/LakeMerritt.asp.

Public Old Town Danville Tour Ninety-minute docent-led tour among historic buildings and sites. Second Saturday of every month, 8 a.m., 925-837-3750, MuseumSRV.org. Danville Downtown, Hartz Ave., Danville.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show Screening of the cult favorite with a costume contest and other festivities. Sat., Aug. 14, 11:45 p.m., $10. Albany Twin, 1115 Solano Avenue, Albany.

FAIRS, FESTIVALS & FIESTAS

Bayfair Center Kids Club Kickoff: Harvest Festival Taste and learn about Oakland fruits and vegetables, as well as enjoy a free lunch. Kids Club membership is free and open to kids of all ages. RSVP at 510-351-0000 by August 11. Sat., Aug. 14, 11 a.m. Free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-6000. ShopBayfair.com.

Elvis B-Day Tiki Party With film screenings, themed food and cocktails, prizes, music and more, in honor of the 33rd anniversary of the King's death. Mon., Aug. 16, 7:30 p.m.-midnight, no cover. Forbidden Island, 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332. ForbiddenIslandAlameda.com.

BreakFest 2010 An afternoon of hip-hop and movement, themed Warrior, including a hip-hop competition and concert, a DJ set by Fire Rock, and b-boy/b-girl battling, and food. Sat., Aug. 14, 12-6 p.m. Mosswood Park, 3612 Webster St., Oakland, 510-581-5030. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Mosswood.asp.

Laurel Street Fair With live music, kids' fun-zone, vendors, and more. Sat., Aug. 14, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Free. Laurel District, Oakland. 510-507-1255.

Vintage Clothing & Style Festival With over 50 vintage clothing vendors selling clothing, shoes, and more. With live entertainment and 2 bars. Sun., Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-5 p.m. $7. Alameda Elks Lodge Auditorium, 2255 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda. 510-865-4009.

World War II Homefront Film Festival Showing Hitchcock's *Lifeboat* on August 12 and *Without Love*, starring Spencer Tracy and Audrey Hepburn, on August 26. With an introduction by a National Park Service Ranger both days. Thu., Aug. 12, 6:30-8:30 p.m.; Thu., Aug. 26, 6:30-8:30 p.m.. SS Red Oak Victory Ship, 1337 Canal Blvd., Richmond, 510-237-2933.

KIDS

Coyote Cubs Kristina Parkinson leads a monthly class introducing kids 3-5 to the frontier world & a hands-on way. Registration required, space is limited. Third Tuesday of every month, 10-11:30 a.m. & 2:30-4 p.m., residents $6, nonresidents $8. Coyote Hills Regional Park, 8000

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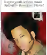
PICKS

FreshFest 2010

Fresh takes on a whole new depth this Saturday, Aug. 14, at **Mosswood Park** (Broadway and MacArthur Blvd., Oakland) — as the term's two meanings — the eco-friendly sense and the old-school hip-hop slang — collide in what's being billed as the largest youth-led eco-minded festival [illegible]. Hosted by **Boots Riley** of **The Coup**, **FreshFest**'s offerings include a **Pete Rock** DJ set (solar-powered, naturally), a hip-hop competition, a kids zone, and healthy food. Noon-6 p.m., free. GoGreenForTheGreen.com — *Ellen Cushing*


Boots Riley.

Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival

Now is certainly a pivotal time for the gay-rights movement, and the eighth annual **Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival** aims to explore all the tension, drama, and humor therein with its slate of shorts and features. The festival takes place over three nights at **Rialto Cinemas Elmwood** (2966 College Ave., Berkeley); highlights include *Children of God*, a narrative feature about racial and religious conflict in the Bahamas, and *After the Storm*, a documentary set in post-Katrina New Orleans. The fest also features additional events, such as a **Director's Workshop** (Friday, Aug. 13) at the **Oakland Pride Headquarters** (495 Embarcadero West, Oakland). Movie tickets are $8-$10 while other events are free; check web site for schedule. BlackLGBTFilmFest.com — *E.C.*

FC Gold Pride

The best team in women's professional soccer is wrapping up a summer that sees it ready to lap the field: **FC Gold Pride hosts the Washington Freedom** on Saturday, Aug. 7, at **Cal State East Bay's Pioneer Stadium** (25800 Carlos Bee Blvd., Hayward). The Gold Pride women haven't lost since June and have a double-digit lead in the standings. The team is even better at home and hopes to get some home cooking before heading back on the road for the next three weeks. The team concludes its regular season in September, but if the Pride can keep up the pace, it's likely there will be playoff games in the East Bay come fall. 7 p.m. $18-$25. 888-541-3911 or WomensProSoccer.com — *Kibby Kleiman*

Patterson Ranch Rd., Fremont. 510-795-9385. EBParks.org.

Goat Feeding Time Get ideas of Tilden goats and greet as they are fed. Saturdays, 3-3:30 p.m., Sun., Aug. 22, 3-3:30 p.m., Sun., Aug. 29, 3-3:30 p.m. Continues through Aug. 29. Free. Crab Cove, 1252 McKay Ave., Alameda. 510-562-PARK. EBParks.org.

Last Day of the Sea month, Farmers' market with a [illegible]. Sat., Aug. 14, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Free. Forest Home Farms, 19953 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-973-3180.

Oakland Slam Youth Speaks sessions for writers under 21: open mic hosted by Meadow Clay and Katy Rankin, featuring [illegible] every month. 7 p.m. free. 415-255-9035. YouthSpeaks.org. Oakland Art Gallery, 199 Kaiser's Alley, Oakland. 510-637-0455. OaklandArtGallery.org.

Wildlife preview On Saturdays, [illegible] and meet an animal. On Sundays, meet more animals and learn [illegible]. Saturdays, 11:45 a.m., Sundays, 1:45 p.m. free with zoo admission. [illegible] Zoo, 9777 Golf Links Rd., Oakland. 510-632-9525. OaklandZoo.org.

LGBT

10th Annual Oakland International Black LGBT Film Fest Screenings of short and feature-length films addressing issues relating to the black LGBT experience. [illegible] Thu., Aug. 12, 9:30 p.m., Sat., Aug. 14 [illegible]. $8-$10. Rialto Cinemas Elmwood, 2966 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-433-9730.

Bisexual Women's Support Group All bi-, lesbian and questioning women (including transgendered women) interested in discussing issues related to bisexuality are welcome. [illegible] and Wednesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

East Bay Bi-Friendly Berkeley Look for the "Bi-Friendly" sign. [illegible] Tuesday of every month, 7:30 p.m. free. Au Coquelet Cafe, 2000 University Ave., Berkeley. 1-888-445-0433.

East Bay Front Runners Join the LGBT group for noncompetitive runs and walks followed by brunch at a local restaurant. [illegible] weekly [illegible]. Sundays, 9 a.m. free. EastBayFrontRunners.org. [illegible] 2171 University Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

Express 20s Discussion group for gay, bi, or questioning men in their twenties. Thursdays, 7:45 p.m. $5-$20 suggested donation. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

HIV+ Gay Men's Support Group A supportive environment for gay men living with diagnosis of HIV. Mondays, 7:30-9 p.m. [illegible] Community Center of Contra Costa County, 3024 Willow Pass Rd., Concord. 925-692-0090. RainbowCC.org.

HIV Oakland Therapy Group [illegible] Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., $10-$45 sliding scale. 510-548-8283 ext. 241. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Sistahs of Tha Pink Purr Group Thursdays, [illegible] p.m., $5-$20 suggested donation. 510-548-8283. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

LGBT Teens Group Drop-in group for LGBT youth. Tuesdays: arts/crafts/writing/movies. Thursdays: hot topics/guest speakers. Fridays: queer movies/video games. Tuesdays, 4-6 p.m., Thursdays, 4-6 p.m., Fridays, 4-6 p.m. free. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Married and Formerly Married Gay/Bi Men's Support Group Wednesdays, 8-10 p.m. marriedmensgroup@pacificcenter.org. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

Transgender Support Group Support group for transgender men and women seeking peer support. Fridays, 6-7:30 p.m. $5-$15 suggested donation. Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-8283. PacificCenter.org.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Afternoon Tea With light refreshments and a chance to meet, play cards [illegible]. 3 p.m. [illegible] requested [illegible] 2206 [illegible] St., Berkeley. 510-843-2222. [illegible].

Black month Quiz Trivia game for [illegible]. Tuesdays, 8 p.m., free. Beckett's, 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-647-1790. BeckettsPub.com.

Discussion Salon Everyone is invited to participate in a wide range of topics, including major international events, laughter and whatever is germane. Info: 510-881-3630. First and Third Tuesday of every month, 7-9 p.m. free. Hosted Community Center of the East Bay, 1404 [illegible] St., Berkeley. [illegible] KCCEB.org.

Meetings of the Jammer Community jam: [illegible] play music. First and Third [illegible] of every month, 3:30-6 p.m. free. La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave. Support: 510-849-2568. LaPena.org.

Berkeley Liberally [illegible] discussion game. Third Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Third Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. First Sunday of every month, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. First Wednesday of every month, 6-8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. free. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 2221 Broadway, Oakland. 510-451-4677. LukasOakland.com.

Monday Movie Night Bring along your favorite movie, the bartender will choose what's shown. Sundays, 8 p.m. Free. [illegible] 3320 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-540-0751.

Know-mad Trivia Night [illegible] month, by Justin & Sara. Mondays, 7:30-9:30 p.m., free. Nomad Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

Laugh Club [illegible] that laughter is good for you, so come [illegible] class for a half-hour laugh session. Tuesdays, 10 a.m. $1 facility use fee for residents, $2 for nonresidents. 925-[illegible]. San Ramon Senior Center, 9300 Alcosta Blvd., San Ramon.

The Living Philosophers Group A peer-guided discussion group. Fridays, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. [illegible] North Berkeley Senior Center, 1901 Hearst Ave., Berkeley. 510-981-5190.

Oakland Interfaith Gospel Choir rehearsals Mondays, 7-9:30 p.m., free. Imani Community Church, 3300 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland. 510-531-5401. OakIGC.org.

Philosophical Roundtable A monthly discussion group. Third Sunday of every month, 12-2 p.m. Seniors, [illegible] Pleasant Hill. 925-[illegible].

Pub Quiz teams of two to five people compete for prizes, hosted by [illegible] and Christie. Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-11 p.m. free. Missouri Lounge, 2600 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-548-2080. TheMissouriLounge.com.

Pub Trivia with prizes and a cash jackpot. Wednesdays, 9 p.m. free. [illegible] Lounge, 3280 [illegible] Ave., [illegible]. [illegible].com.

[illegible] Hosted Tour and Fundraiser Fundraiser for a seismic retrofit of the historic arts & crafts-styled bungalow. With Oakland [illegible] Robert Judson Clark and Edward "Ted" Bosley. Sat., Aug. 14, 5-8 p.m., $30 [illegible]. [illegible] House, 2307 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley.

Walking Sing-Alongs Led by Gale [illegible] month. Free, drop-in, all ages, no experience necessary. Wednesdays, 4:30-5 p.m. Albany Library, 1247 Marin Ave., Albany. 510-526-3720. ACLibrary.org.

SPORTS & OUTDOORS-PARTICIPATORY

2010 Drop-in Sports Schedule Monday: badminton, table tennis, and volleyball 12-2 p.m. Tuesday: intermediate 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 12-2 p.m. Wednesday: football and volleyball 12-2 p.m. Thursday: volleyball 8:30-9:30 a.m. and 12-2 p.m. Friday: badminton, table tennis and intermediate 12-2 p.m. Saturday: 1-4 p.m. Sunday (1st and 3rd): basketball and volleyball 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Sunday (2nd and 4th): badminton and table tennis 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. [illegible] Robert Livermore Community Center, 4444 East Ave., Livermore. 925-373-5700.

Aikido Classes [illegible] Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. Mondays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 31. $48/mo for 2 classes per week; $38/mo for one class per week. [illegible] Center, 1301 Oakland Ave., Berkeley. 510-[illegible].

Bike Tour of Oakland Personalized tours of Oakland parks through [illegible] the Port of Oakland, West Oakland, Brooklyn, [illegible] Lake [illegible]. Meet [illegible] 10th Street Rotunda at 10 a.m. [illegible] preferred. [illegible] 510-238-3830. Third [illegible] of every month, 10 a.m. free. Oakland Museum of California, 1000 Oak St., Oakland. 510-238-2200. MuseumCA.org.

Oakland Table Tennis Club Open to everyone. Open play, training and hosted tournaments. Sundays, 10:30am-2:30pm. Open play, training & tournaments Sundays 10:30am-2:30pm; Open play and training Mondays 1pm-10pm; Open play and training Tuesdays 1:30pm-9:30pm; Tournament 6:25pm-12:25pm Thursdays. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Sundays, 10:30 a.m.-10:30 p.m., $3-11. Pleasant Hill Adventist Academy gymnasium, 796 Grayson Road, Pleasant Hill.

Ladies Night Special tee times reserved for women. Info: 510-848-7373 ext. 200. Wednesdays, 5:37 p.m. $19 [illegible] $15 for a cart; $1 of each [illegible] the American Heart Association. Tilden Park Golf Course, 10 Golf Course Dr., Berkeley. 510-848-7373. TildenParkGC. AmericanGolf.com.

Lunchtime Drop-in Open Sports! Head over to NLCC Gym, 4444 East Ave., [illegible] for a lunchtime special. $50 for a 10-visit pass or $2.50 per visit. Info: 925-373-5731. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Metro Ladies' Golf Group Membership [illegible] play days weekly (Wednesdays), two free [illegible] events annually, quarterly [illegible] clinics at a discounted rate, and one free medium bucket of range balls for practice monthly. Wednesdays, 7 a.m. $65 annually, with play days costing $25 walking, $35 riding. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-430-5555. PlayMetro.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links Chipping and Putting Clinic Learn distance and accuracy control, how to select the proper club strategy, and more in this class [illegible] (approximately a five-to-one student-instructor ratio). 24-hour advance reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and select option 7. Saturdays, 2-3 p.m., $35. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. PlayMetro.com.

Metropolitan Golf Links Beginner and Improver Clinic Learn the basics of swing. Approximately five-to-one student-teacher ratio. Minimum 24-hour advance reservation required. Call 510-569-5555 and select option 1. Saturdays, [illegible] p.m., $35. Metropolitan Golf Links, 10051 Doolittle Dr., Oakland. 510-569-5555. PlayMetro.com.

Midnight Soccer month Second and Fourth Saturday of every month, 11:45 p.m. free. [illegible].

Ultimate Oakland Lunchtime pick-up [illegible]. Call 510-[illegible] for more information. Saturdays, 12-2:30 p.m. Montclair Park, 6300 Moraga Ave., Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/Default.asp

Pro Alameda Bike Team Training Bike Ride Leisurely 15-25-mile ride up Tunnel Road and through the Berkeley hills. Wednesdays, 8 a.m., free. [illegible] Cafe, 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland. 510-595-5344. NomadCafe.net.

[illegible] Mondays, 10 p.m.-11:50 p.m. [illegible] Albany Bowl, 540 San Pablo Ave., Albany. 510-526-8818. AlbanyBowl.biz

Valley Ridings [illegible] Weekly Berkeley recreational divers, snowboarders, and other water sports welcome. Year-round outdoors include [illegible] golf and more. [illegible] 7:30 p.m. [illegible] The Creamery [illegible] 1553 [illegible]. (925)831-1270.

Sun Fun Runs, Frontrunners A 1-5 mile run [illegible] Stow Lake together with the [illegible] of the LGBT community and friends. Saturdays, 9 a.m. Free. Frontrunners.org.

More Listings Online

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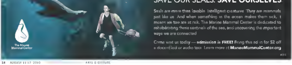
SPORTS-SPECTATOR

Oakland A's vs. Toronto Blue Jays Mon., Aug. 16, 7:05 p.m.; Tue., Aug. 17, 7:05 p.m.; Wed., Aug. 18, 12:35 p.m. $2-$55. Coliseum, 7000 Coliseum Wy., Oakland.

Submissions for calendar listings should be e-mailed to Calendar@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Calendar Editor, East Bay Express, 600 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.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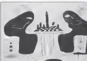

Detail of Bassem Yousri's *A Naked Model*

End Products

Kala exhibits five of its 2009-10 residency artists

Each fall, **Kala Art Institute** selects nine artists for fellowships, exhibiting their completed work the following summer. **Val Britton**, **Chris Duncan**, **Katy Higgins**, **Laura Paulini**, and **Bassem Yousri** are featured in this year's ***Residency Projects I***; **Terry Berlier**, **Jeff Hantman**, **Sean McFarland**, and **Ranu Mukherjee** will show in September's ***Residency Projects II***. As in past years, the work is stunning, eclectic, and thoughtful, with a strong (but unplanned) East Bay representation by Britton, Duncan, and Paulini.

Britton's free-form paper assemblages ("Worldscape," "Trajectory") employ irregularly cut pieces of paper that derive their contours from road maps but might equally refer to foliage, shadows, and clouds. These organic drawing/map-print collage fragments are glued to paper matrices or paper-strip lattices, webs, and grids, suggesting mutable, imperfect mergers of the observed natural world and the conceptual overlays we impose on it. Duncan's multimedia installation, "The Sun," pays homage to our solar benefactor with photographs, a poster wall, a drum set, a colored-string mandala, and a performative aspect: the artist persuaded friends to improvise music over a period of several months, creating sounds both "unlistenable" and transporting. These valid "reflections of life" derive from "youthful purity"; a twelve-inch vinyl LP is being made.

Higgins looks at the ersatz environments that we construct for zoo animals in her ***Empty Exhibits*** color photos: their simulated cage enclosures empty of animals or people, incongruous manmade objects populate the diorama in "African Savanna" and the domesticated jungle in "Tiger"; the swim lake in "St. Lawrence Marine," with its sheep-shaped faux rock formations, is bordered by a huge mural of sky and forest illuminated by distant skylights. Paulini's ink drawings and engravings alternate between the naturalistic ("Graves Lake Plant Engraved") and the geometric ("Five Petal," "Sample Square"), but her abstract tempera paintings on panel ("Kaleidoscope," "Watermelon Medicine") suggest the phenomenal world, at least obliquely, with their intricate patterning and Braille-dot textures.

Last, but certainly not least, is Yousri's playful wall installation, "A Naked Model," a pyramid profusely filled with cartoonish, burqa-clad women — some resembling birds or seals — exuberantly bicycling, playing sports, dancing, space-traveling, watching romantic movies, newspaper-reading on the toilet, and even painting a well-endowed, delighted male nude. Yousri's comic video rant in "About Extremism and Corruption" could apply to the American dystopia as well as the Egyptian; new videos premiere on August 21. Residency I runs through August 21 at Kala Gallery (2990 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley). 510-841-7000 or Kala.org/exhibitions/exhibition.html

— DeWitt Cheng

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/residencyproducts

ART GALLERIES

21 Grand: Benefit: Encada Beme Structure With independent installations by Barbara Holmes, Laurel Halbhalden, and Dena Rubin. Saturdays, Sundays, 2-6 p.m. Fridays, 4-8 p.m. Thursdays, 4-8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 28. 416 25th St., Oakland. 510-444-7263, 21Grand.org.

ACCI Gallery: 2010 National Juried Exhibition Fifth work from dozens of artists from all over the nation, selected by Maria Medua, Director, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art's Artist Gallery. Sundays, 12-5 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Aug. 21. 1652 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2527, ACCIGallery.com.

Albatross Pub: Directions: painting and thought by Kay Marshall Wednesdays-Fridays, 4:30 p.m.-2 a.m. Mondays, Saturdays, Sundays, 6 p.m.-2 a.m. Continues through Oct. 1. Free. 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley. 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com.

Ames Gallery: Twice Upon A Time: Everyday Objects With/Pas Art, including quilts, invented and reused art, and more. Mondays-Fridays, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 1. 2661 Cedar St., Berkeley. 510-845-4949, AmesGallery.com.

Art House Gallery & Cultural Center: Paintings by Lori Hanson With an opening reception August 1, 2pm-5pm. Saturdays, Sundays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Oct. 1. **Summer of Psychedelic Love: The LLB Show** With art, live music, dancing, poetry, a light show and more. With art and performance by Ronald Adler, Ava Rod, Lusiane Bola-Hindes, Olive Wrought and others. Sun., Aug. 15, 5-10 p.m. $10. Donation. 2905 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-472-3170.

ArtWorksOakland: *** Mixed-media work by Oakland-based artist Daniel Hasley. With an opening reception August 6, 6pm-9pm and an artist's reception September 4, 7pm-10pm. Sundays, 12:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wednesdays-Fridays, 3-8 p.m. Sat., Sept. 4, 7-10 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. 425 Water St., Oakland. 510-387-2138.

Autobody Fine Art: I Am Not An Army With new work by James Sneath. With an opening reception August 13, 7pm-10pm and a closing reception September 10, 7pm-10pm. Starting Aug. 13. Fri., Aug. 13, 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays-Sundays, 12-6 p.m., Fri., Sept. 10, 7-10 p.m. Continues through Sept. 12. 1517 Park Street, Alameda.

Berkeley Public Library, Central Branch: Aaron Tunes Photographs by Ken Akiwate. Mondays-Saturdays, 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Continues through Sept. 27. 2090 Kittredge St., Berkeley. 510-981-6100, BerkeleyPublicLibrary.org.

Frank Bette Center for the Arts: Plein Air Paintout Exhibit With art from Alameda's Plein Air Paintout, in which local artists were encouraged to paint landscapes and portraits inspired by and set in Alameda. With an opening reception August 6, 7pm-9pm. Wednesdays-Saturdays, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. Continues through Aug. 28. Free. 1601 Paru St., Alameda. 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

The Backdrop: Faux Francisco With work by Annalene Vidas, Benjamin Goodman, Brad Werner, Colin Christy, Beatrix Gulley, Russell Butler and Steven Gann. Opening August 13; show on view by appointment for 2-3 weeks thereafter. Fri., Aug. 13, 5-11 p.m. 1148 E. 18th St., Oakland. 510-268-4760.

Chandra Cerrito Contemporary: Lawrence LaBianca and Esther Brough With an opening reception August 6, 6pm-9pm. Fridays, 2-6 p.m. Saturdays, 1-5 p.m. Continues through Sept. 18. 480 23rd Street, Oakland. 510-260-7494. ChandraCerrito.com.

Craft and Cultural Arts Gallery: Enough is Jones Paintings and mixed media by Michael Garcia Rodriguez and live drum performance July 15, 5pm-8pm. Artist talk and dance performance by the artist August 19, 5pm-8pm. Mondays-Fridays, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 27. 1515 Clay St., Oakland. 510-622-8190, OaklandCulturalArts.org.

Creative Growth Art Center: Love It & Stronger Work by many Creative Growth artists, curated by Leigh Mettopoulos. With a reception Aug 12, 5pm-8pm. Starting Aug. 12. Thu., Aug. 12, 5-8 p.m. Mondays-Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Sun., Aug. 15, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Continues through Sept. 30. 355 24th St., Oakland.

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PICKS

Still from Peter Dobey's *Athlete.*

DeWitt Cheng

Its Own Nothingness (in 3 Acts)

Sartre posited an unlikely Being that "exhibit[s] Nothingness." This show — with performance "prelude," photo/video corpus, and Butoh "postlude" — posits a search for that ineffable entity/nonentity, i.e., for meaning in an absurd existentialist universe. **Ariel Baron-Robbins'** videos and photos depict the artist making drawing gestures, or drawn upon; the artist is both subject and object. **Tad Bock's** photos feature nudes re-enacting indoors the poses previously photographed during outdoor jumps. **Peter Dobey** explores improvisation in photographs of dramatically posed nude couples and a high-angle video of a floor-bound dancer. **Sarah Filley** explores the personal and spiritual uses of image in her installation, video, and photos. **Elisabeth Orr** and **Joey Petropoulos'** multi-screen video juxtaposes unrelated images and bits of dialogue to suggest, perhaps, our eternal "failure to communicate." See web site for events. *Its Own Nothingness* runs through August 28 at **Krowswork** (480 23rd St., Oakland). 510-229-7035 or Krowswork.com. — *DeWitt Cheng*

Five Artists, Five Perspectives

Rita Bagley, **Pam Fingado**, **Ed France**, **Dorian Leigh**, and **Sandi Potter** explore the modernist tradition in this small group show, illustrating Rothko's dictum that "Art is an adventure into an unknown world." Bagley paints smoldering abstractions based on nocturnal photographs ("Night Lights From the Light House," "East Shore Views From the Light House"). Fingado interprets historic photographs in a semi-abstract painting style to explore "time, memory, and human absence." France's paintings ("I Am I Said," "After the Maldau") are abstract, while his mixed-media prints ("Losing My Mind," "Butterfly") incorporate collaged papers and handwritten song lyrics. Leigh employs sinuous scribbling or [illegible] the whimsical or nature spirits in her drawing "Listening ...." Potter's lyrical "Electric Night Watch" combines "the vast beauty of landscape and the feeling of isolation and aloneness." *Five Artists* runs through August 27 at **Fingado Art Gallery** (7022 Stockton Ave., El Cerrito). 510-643-6494 or FingadoArtGallery.com. — *D.C.*

[illegible]

MUSEUMS

[illegible]

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THEATER

EVERYBODY LOVES NORMAN

Shotgun Players kick off *The Norman Conquests* with *Table Manners* — and an empty larder

By Rachel Swan

Any sufferer of low blood sugar will understand what's wrong with the following menu: Water biscuits. Milk. Lettuce leaves (six). One bottle carrot wine. One bottle dandelion wine. One box Cheerios. One box corn flakes. One box Puffa Puffa Rice. One dish jam. One dish marmalade. Twelve slabs bread, toasted. One pot tea. One pot oxtail stew with "unidentified lumps." A few sundry bits. Feeds six, for one holiday weekend.

That might explain why the talk in Alan Ayckbourn's ***Table Manners*** — the first play in his comedic trilogy ***The Norman Conquests*** — quickly veers to cannibalism and ultimately leads the six characters to devour each other. The personalities who populate Ayckbourn's tale are all staples of British comedy. There is Annie, the lonely spinster deputized to care for her ailing mother. Her sister Ruth is a striver; her brother Reg is rather impotent; his wife Sarah conceals all her insecurities beneath a prim, proper exterior. Annie's love interest, a veterinarian named Tom, is potentially asexual. Her other love interest, Ruth's husband Norman, is a lecherous, temperamental librarian.

Thus, we have all the raw ingredients for a disaster, especially when you throw them in the pressure-cooker environment of Annie's house, where everyone convenes for a haphazardly arranged holiday weekend. That setup provides enough material to fuel three separate plays, each occurring in a different room. **Shotgun Players** challenged itself with producing all three concurrently, with one cast and three different directors. *Table Manners* kicked off the series last week. The actors are hams, even though some pretend to be lambs: **Zehra Berkman** plays a guileless Annie against **Josiah Polhemus**' insouciant Tom. **Kendra Lee Oberhauser** is the alpha in her marriage to **Mick Mize**'s shifty, grousing Reg. But the weirdest match of all is geeky Ruth (**Sarah Mitchell**) and her big yellow beast of a husband, played by **Richard Reinholdt**. His Norman not only seduces the other actors; he manhandles the audience as well.

It makes you wonder how these people ever got together in the first place. Like his predecessor **Noël Coward**, Ayckbourn specializes in comedies of manners, and dramas of the kitchen-sink variety. His marriages are falling apart. Most of his characters are privately unhappy, no matter how giddy they appear in public. And most have a rather carnivorous way of approaching relationships: Consume the other person, then disgorge his person.

That's fodder for terrific comedy, especially in a house with a barren larder. It became a vacation home by accident. Originally, Annie had planned to abscond for two days with Norman, while Sarah and Reg took care of mum and Tom tended his animals. Ruth was supposed to enjoy a quiet weekend alone. Annie would tell her family that she was vacationing solo. Of course, everything comes undone in the opening scene, when Annie confides to Sarah about her affair with Norman, who arrives moments later. After getting pilloried by his in-laws, Norman handles the situation by boozing up on the dandelion wine. Tom comes in to see what all the fuss is about, not realizing that his presence will merely complicate things.

Food conveys emotion in *The Norman Conquests*.

In the absence of real food, the characters lard their language with jokes and funny asides. They ration. For the first dinner, they graze on salad and fermented drinks while Norman sings offstage. For the second dinner, Sarah serves everyone a lettuce leaf, followed by a lump of gluey stew. The bread is inedible by the next morning, so Tom uses his to build a sailboat, with a paper napkin serving as the mast.

They also use food to convey emotion, as when Annie throws a tin of biscuits on the floor, or when Sarah viciously cuts her lettuce leaf with a knife and fork. Norman tries to break the ice at breakfast by marveling as the milk settles in his cereal bowl. The actors chomp and masticate their lettuce, brandish their silver, and butter their bread furiously, ignoring Norman's ill-fated pleas for attention.

Show Details: *The Norman Conquests* run through September 5 at The Ashby Stage (1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley). ShotgunPlayers.org

Table Manners is an easy play to produce, but director **Joy Carlin** adds some terrific surprise elements. Take, for instance, the actors' authentic British accents, which pack an extra comic punch into each line. Honed by assistant director **Trish Mulholland**, they have the lilt of proper BBC television, rising in pitch and volume mid-sentence. Mitchell and Oberhauser — who also played opposite one another in Impact Theater's ***See How We Are*** — make a fabulous pair of in-laws. Cast members even handle the challenges of staging a play that's largely built around the dinner table, where two people's backs are always to the audience, and where it's hard not to be overshadowed by Norman, who arrives in a pair of leopard-print jammies. I'd like to think that much of the blocking in this play was improvised — including the part when Mitchell slides one palm along the back of a chair and bemoans the state of things: "This meal is *rapidly* becoming unbearable." ●

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/gr/norman

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THEATER & DANCE

COMEDY

Comedy at Craneway With rotating headliners. Saturdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 28. $12-$15. Craneway Pavilion, 1414 Harbour Way South, Richmond. www.cranewaypavilion.com/

Comedy at the Layover Weekly stand-up with rotating comedians. Tuesdays, 8:30 p.m. Free. The Layover, 1517 Franklin St., Oakland. 510-834-1517. OaklandLayover.com

Comedy Open Mic Sign-ups at 5:30 p.m., each comic gets 4-5 minutes. Mondays, 7 p.m. $5. Tommy T's Comedy & Steakhouse, 5104 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton, 925-227-1800.

Jokes 'n Jaw Sign-ups at 6:30 p.m., show at 7 p.m. Fourth and Second Friday of every month, 8:30 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cafe, 1341 Park Blvd., Oakland.

Saturday Bad Showcase With rotating acts. Fridays, 9 p.m. $12-$15. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com

Thursday Night Ring With rotating acts. Thursdays, 8 p.m. $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com

LIVE VARIETY

RAD Art Center Live Arts Performance With dance, music and performance from RAD artists including Jonathan Velasquez, Heather Edgar, Mike Sutton, Wendi Yuan, and Tyler Del Rio. Fri., Aug. 13, 7 p.m. Free. RAD Art Center, 551 23rd St., Richmond. 510-620-0290, RADart.org.

Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus: Barnum's Funundrum! With juggling, acrobatics, animal tricks, and more. Wed., Aug. 11, 7:30 p.m.; Thu., Aug. 12, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 14, 11 a.m., 3 & 7 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 15, 1 & 5 p.m. $15-$105. Oracle Arena, 7000 Coliseum Wy., Oakland, 510-569-2121, Coliseum.com

THEATER & PERFORMING ARTS

Aladdin A stage production of the Disney movie, directed by Jennifer King. With a special "Aladdin" reception for LGBT families before August 8's 5pm show and a Q&A for subscribers after the August 21 afternoon show. Sat., Aug. 14, 2 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 15, 6 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 20, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 21, 2 & 6:30 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 22, 12 & 5 p.m.; Thu., Aug. 26, 7:30 p.m.; Fri., Aug. 27, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 28, 2 & 6:30 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 29, 12 & 5 p.m.; Fri., Sept. 3, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Sept. 4, 2 & 6:30 p.m.; Sun., Sept. 5, 12 & 5 p.m. $15-$32. Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, 2640 College Ave., Berkeley. 510-845-8542, JuliaMorgan.org.

Blithe Spirit Production of Noel Coward's comedy directed by Hector Correa and performed by the Actors Ensemble of Berkeley. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Thu., Aug. 19, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 21. $15 general, students and seniors $12. Live Oak Theater, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-5580.

Broadway Bound Production of Neil Simon's play directed by KGO radio personality Marty Hanks and starring Patrick Russell, Brady Woolery and others. With an Opening Night Gala after the July 23 show and talk-back sessions with the audience and cast after the Sunday twilight matinees. Fridays, Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 6 p.m. Continues through Aug. 15. $13-$18. Chanticleers Theatre, 3683 Quail Ave., Castro Valley. 510-733-5483, Chanticleers.org.

Bye Bye Birdie Young performers from Stage Door Conservatory performing the classic musical written by Michael Stewart, Lee Adams, and Charles Strouse, with direction from Susan Kaplan, choreography by Katie Kimball and musical direction by Michael Ames. Fri., Aug. 13, 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 14, 7:30 p.m.; Sun., Aug. 15, 2 p.m. $15-$50. El Cerrito High School, 540 Ashbury St., El Cerrito. 510-525-8234.

The Norman Conquests Production of the Alan Ayckbourn comic trilogy presented individually in a sequence. Part 1, *Table Manners* directed by Joy Carlin, opens August 6. Part 2, *Living Together* directed by Molly Aaronson-Gelb, opens August 13, and Part 3, *Round and Round the Garden*, directed by Mina Morita, opens August 20. Check website to see which plays are playing when. Fridays-Sundays, 8 p.m.; Saturdays, Sundays, 4 p.m.; Wednesdays, Thursdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 1 p.m. Continues through Sept. 11. $20-$25 per show; $50 for all three. Ashby Stage, 1901 Ashby Ave., Berkeley. 510-841-6500, ShotgunPlayers.org.

Machiavelli's *The Prince* Drama based on the famous book. Written and directed by Gary Graves, with Mark Farrell and [illegible] Alexander Smith. Thursdays-Saturdays, 8 p.m.; Sundays, 5 p.m. Continues through Aug. 22. $14-$25 sliding scale, $23 advance. Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant Ave., Berkeley. 510-848-1900, BerkeleyCityClub.com.

The Music Man Production of the classic musical written by Meredith Willson, directed by Joel Schlader, and starring local actors. Thursdays-Sundays, 8 p.m. Continues through Aug. 18. $25-$40. Woodminster Amphitheater, 3300 Joaquin Miller Road, Oakland. 510-531-9597, Woodminster.com

Staged Reading: *The [illegible] the Earth was Flat* Staged reading of Rudyard Kipling's [illegible] story, adapted and directed by Vicki Siegel. Tue., Aug. 17, 8 p.m. Pay what you can. Live Oak Theatre, 1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley. 510-644-5580.

Woman's Will: *Much Ado About Nothing* All female production of Shakespeare's comedy directed by Lisa Eckel. Bring blankets, picnic, fun, and lawn chairs. Sun., Aug. 15, 2:30 p.m. Free. Centennial Park, 5353 Sunol Ave., Pleasanton, 925-426-0813.

PICKS

Blithe Spirit

There was good reason for sulking Elvira Condomine, a "blithe spirit." She died while cackling to a BBC comedy show, got swept off to a supernatural world where everyone wore gauzy frocks and played board games all day, and eventually returned to the terrestrial world for one last spat with her crime novelist husband. Such is the plot of *Blithe Spirit*, a 1941 comedy of manners by **Noël Coward**. Structured, like all of Coward's plays, as a series of chance encounters and Freudian slips, it tells the story of a man who stupidly calls back his dead wife's ghost — only to ruin his current marriage. **Stanley Spenger** stars as Charles Condomine, the protagonist in a new **Actors Ensemble of Berkeley** staging. Directed by **Hector Correa**, it boasts a cast of sharp, commanding actors. **Erin J. Hoffman** plays the sheelish Elvira, who duked it out with Condomine's second wife, Ruth (**Shannon Veon Kase**). Careful set design and a 1940s jazz ballad soundtrack lend authenticity to the production. *Through August 21* at **Live Oak Theatre** (1301 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). $12-$15. AEofBerkeley.org. — *Rachel Swan*

The Business

Stand-up comedy has an insular quality — even in the populist Bay Area. You can't just bat your eyes at the right booker or emcee; you work your way up there. **Rocky Sinister** came to that realization shortly after shifting from spoken word to stand-up. Long known for his loopy, angry monologues, a weird, cinematic, long-form poetry, Sinister brought a similar feel to comedy. Since his brand doesn't always suit the mainstream clubs, he decided to launch a weekly open mic at the **Dark Room Theatre** (2263 Mission St., San Francisco), a Mission district black box with cafe seating and a wraparound bar. Sinister hosts "The Business" with three established jokesters — **Sean Keane, Chris Garcia,** and **Alex Koll** — who also needed a place to work out their material. With loose themes and rotating guest stars, the event seems workshop-y, but the format yields surprising moments of brilliance. The Business happens Wednesdays at 8 p.m., $5. DarkRoomSF.com — *R.S.*

Posibilidad

The San Francisco Mime Troupe is nothing if not ambitious — and perhaps a little impetuous. For 51 years, the small theater collective has worked to overthrow our capitalist economic system, using spoof and satire as its ammo. And while it has yet to reach that far-fetched political goal, the troupe has produced some terrific plays in the process. This year's ***Posibilidad or Death of the Worker*** provides a classic parable about factory workers taking over the evil manufacturing plant Peace Weavers, which is actually a subsidiary of a large hemp-ware conglomerate. The action occurs both in the US and in a secular Argentine textile mill located in the small pueblo of Posibilidad. Characters switch from English to Spanish, which helps make the story more interesting even if it demands a lot from audience members. **Michael Gene Sullivan** wrote the play and stars as Joe, the union leader who [illegible] to his own hubris. He was upstaged by **Rotimi Agbabiaka**, who plays the [illegible], sensitive-skinned, New-Age [illegible] at Peace Weavers. It all hangs together nicely, complete with Tango dance numbers, [illegible] and a little romance. *Through September 19* at various Bay Area venues. SFMT.org. — *R.S.*

LECTURES & LIT

Susan Dunlap

For Susan Dunlap, It's Murder

Award-winning Albany mystery writer finds inspiration on East Bay streets

As **Susan Dunlap**'s new novel ***Power Slide*** begins, San Francisco Zen Buddhist/stunt double/sleuth **Darcy Lott** is on a **Port of Oakland** loading dock waiting to shoot a scene. She envisions exactly how the action will flow: As she rides a bike, a truck will race full-speed around a corner onto the pier, headed toward a cargo ship. Her bike's tire will get stuck in a rut, she'll fly off the pier and "go into a power slide. He jackknifes and I go straight under his truck. He'll handle it." Of course he will: the missing stunt driver is her more-or-less beau, and she trusts him with her life. The trouble is, he hasn't shown up. And he never misses a shoot. Something's up.

"Every mystery is a puzzle," said Dunlap, a multiple Anthony and Macavity Award-winning Albany author who will be at **Mrs. Dalloway's** (2904 College Ave., Berkeley) on Thursday, August 12. "And that was the thing I loved to begin with."

The former math major switched to writing fiction after teaching middle school and doing social work. She has since become one of the most prolific authors on the Bay Area mystery scene. *Power Slide* is the fourth in her San Francisco-based Darcy Lott series. Dunlap's **Vejay Haskell** trilogy is set along the Russian River. Set near La Jolla, her **Kiernan O'Shaughnessy** trilogy involves hang gliders, contagious diseases, and sacred ground. Her ten-book **Jill Smith** series found its Berkeley patrol-officer heroine hiding in plainclothes in **People's Park**, investigating a Bhutanese Buddhist holy man's death, and contending with competitive **Gourmet Ghetto** restaurateurs.

"When I was writing about Berkeley, I used to wander around and see what the city would give me," Dunlap said. "Berkeley is a wonderful place for seeing things that you realize people would kill over."

Many a scene, encounter, and experience on those familiar streets germinated into characters and plot twists, and sometimes into the driving forces of entire books. Plotting mystery novels entails detailed advance planning — not so difficult for a former math major — but Dunlap enjoys not knowing everything that will happen in a book before she writes its first page.

"Ideally, I know from the beginning how it will end," she said. "The best place to start is where you know the end and a few major things, then develop it from there. It's much more fun to end each chapter that you write still wondering, 'Hmm, what's the worst thing that could possibly happen to these characters now?' But that's like leaving a chicken at the end of each chapter. At the end, they all come home to roost."

When the process is going well, "It's as if the book has already been written, as if the answers to all your questions are already there and you're just putting them into place," Dunlap mused. "The way sculptors say that they're pulling statues out of the stone." 7:30 p.m., free. MrsDalloways.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/dunlap

LECTURES

Great Yosemite Day Hikes and Overnight Backpacking Trips With slides and advice from guidebook author Ann Marie Brown. Tue., Aug. 17, 6:30 p.m., free. REI Berkeley, 1338 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-527-4140, REI.com.

Livermore Underground Learn about earth-dwelling creatures with ranger [illegible]. Sun., Aug. 15, 2 p.m. Sycamore Grove/Veterans Park, 5051 Arroyo Rd., Livermore. 925-960-2400. LARPD.dst.CA.US. Open_Space: Sycamore Park.

Using Historic Newspapers for Genealogy Research Learn about how to find little nuggets about family history with the help of online newspapers. With [illegible] genealogist Janeen Sallem. Sun., Aug. 15, 12:30-3 p.m. Free. Oakland Regional Family History Center, 4766 Lincoln Avenue, Oakland.

[illegible] The Book as a Platform for Business Success With speaker Michelle Gamble-Risley, president of 3L Publishing LLC and M Communications. Tue., Aug. 17, 11 a.m.-1 p.m., $35-$45. Lake Merritt [illegible], 1800 Madison St., Oakland.

LITERARY EVENTS

Autobiographic Book Discussion: [illegible], Cool of New York [illegible] by [illegible]. Tue., Aug. 17, 6:30-7:45 p.m., free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward, 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

California of the East Digital storytelling session allows people to record personal testimonials. Daily, free. Hayward Public Library, 835 C St., Hayward, 510-293-8685, Library.hayward-ca.gov.

[illegible] Reading from her new young adult novel *[illegible]*. [illegible] Aug. 11, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210. GreatGoodPlaceIndiebound.com.

[illegible] Literature Book Group Third Monday of every month, 7 p.m., free. [illegible], 5904 [illegible] St., Emeryville, 510-541-[illegible].

Exhibit: Fighting Nazism with [illegible] Exhibit on [illegible], published [illegible] during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. Through Aug. 21, free. [illegible] Library, UC Berkeley campus, Berkeley, 510-643-[illegible].

[illegible] Reading from her new book *There Are No Goodbyes*. Sat., Aug. 14, 7 p.m., free. [illegible] Library, 189 [illegible] Ave., Oakland, 510-790-8231, [illegible].

[illegible] Presenting his new [illegible] mystery *[illegible]*. Wed., Aug. 11, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Lakeview Book Discussion Group Third Monday of every month, 12:45-1:45 p.m. [illegible] Public Library, Lakeview Branch, 550 El Embarcadero, Oakland, 510-238-7344, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Reading from his novel *Into the Beautiful North*. Mon., Aug. 16, 7 p.m., free. Books Inc. Berkeley, 1760 Fourth St., Berkeley.

Mary Roach Discussing her new book, *Packing for Mars: The Curious Science of Life in the Void*. Fri., Aug. 13, 7 p.m. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com.

[illegible] Writers Group Call [illegible] at 510-883-[illegible] for more info. Saturdays, 3-5 p.m., free. [illegible] Lake Neighborhood Center, 530 Lake Park Ave., Oakland.

New Audio Book Downloads A new service offered through the library's improved web site. Features include an online reference [illegible], catalogue and database access, [illegible], and more. Daily, free. Oakland Public Library, Main Branch, 125 14th St., Oakland, 510-238-3134, OaklandLibrary.org.

[illegible] Book Clubs Sign up for [illegible] and read the latest books via e-mail, as [illegible] books in [illegible]. To participate, visit OaklandLibrary.org. Daily.

[illegible] Reading from her new novel *[illegible]*, historical fiction set in a community of Chinese immigrants in 1918. Mon., Aug. 16, 7 p.m., free. A Great Good Place for Books, 6120 LaSalle Ave., Oakland, 510-339-8210, GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com.

PUBLIC INTEREST

East Bay Good Neighbor [illegible] Oakland [illegible] *The Arrowhead & Last Day of 1999* by George Young. Sat., Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m., free. Albany Veterans Memorial Building, 1325 Portland Ave., Albany.

Food Stamp Program Third Tuesday of every month, 2:30-4:30 p.m., free. [illegible] Public Library, Asian Branch, 388 9th St., Suite 190, Oakland, 510-238-3400, OaklandLibrary.org.

Free Second [illegible] Tours of Downtown Oakland With eight [illegible] to [illegible] from. Reservations recommended but not required. More information at 510-238-3234. Wednesdays, Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m. Continues through Oct. 30. Free. [illegible] Oakland, 12th and Broadway, Oakland.

[illegible] Psychedelic and [illegible] Archive [illegible] the [illegible] of various [illegible] and [illegible] and the ways in which their use and [illegible] have affected culture. Saturdays, 1:30-3 p.m. Long Haul, 3124 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-0751.

[illegible] People United For people over 75. Fourth and Second Thursday of every month, 1:30 p.m., free. [illegible], 1403 [illegible] St., [illegible], 510-548-5898.

SPOKEN WORD

"[illegible] at Night" With movies and TV shows, plus 2 for $5 well drinks. Sundays, 8 p.m., free. Pauand Lounge, [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, PauandLounge.com.

The Berkeley Poetry Bash Hosted by Charles Ellik. [illegible] Mondays, 8 p.m., $7. Starry Plough, 3101 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-2082, StarryPloughPub.com.

Café Poetry [illegible] and an open mic. [illegible] and Paradise Productions, and [illegible]. Oakland. Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m., [illegible] [illegible] La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2568, LaPena.org.

Comedy Night Hosted by Tony Sparks. Thursdays, 8 p.m., free. [illegible] Café, 1122 Folsom St., San Francisco, 415-861-[illegible].

Comedy [illegible] [illegible], by [illegible] the Poet, with rotating acts. Mondays, 8 p.m. [illegible] Room, 400 Clement St., San Francisco, 425-351-0568. Rock-It-Room.

[illegible] A night of poetry and spoken word. Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 p.m. [illegible] requested. EastSide Cultural Center, 2277 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-6629.

Last Book Poetry Salon Poetry, [illegible] and open mic hosted by Dale Jensen, Diane Q., Randy Sighland, and The [illegible]. Second Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. Nefeli Caffe, 1854 Euclid St., Berkeley, 510-841-6374.

Magic & [illegible] w/ Big Al Catino & Friends [illegible] Shelter performance of magic and comedy. Saturdays, 8 p.m., $20. [illegible] Theater, Stage 250, San Francisco, 415-[illegible].

Comedy Night Mix w/ a rotating lineup of SF Comedy College alumni. Tuesdays, 9-11 p.m., $5. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

New [illegible] Poetry [illegible] Third Sunday of every month, 7-8 p.m., $4. 21 Grand, 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263, 21Grand.org.

[illegible] Experimental poetry and film series. Third Sunday of every month, 7 p.m. 21 Grand, 416 25th St., Oakland, 510-444-7263, 21Grand.org.

[illegible] W/ [illegible], [illegible], & Jim Martin. Fridays, 7:30 p.m., free. [illegible] of [illegible] Town Center, Oakland, 510-450-9951.

Poetry [illegible] A twice-monthly poetry [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] poetry [illegible] Second and Third Tuesday of every month, 7:30-9 p.m., free. World Ground Café, 3726 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-3838, WorldGrounds.com.

Second Saturday Prose & Poetry @Oakland Poetry reading and open mic. Second Saturday of every month, 1-5 p.m. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda, 510-523-6957, FrankBetteCenter.org.

SF Comedy Showcase Sundays, 8 p.m., $8. Punch Line, 444 Battery St., San Francisco, 415-397-4337, SFPunchline.com.

[illegible] Bay Show rotating acts. Wednesdays, 8-9:30 p.m., $. San Francisco Comedy College, 414 Mason St. #705, San Francisco, 415-921-2051, SFComedyCollege.com.

[illegible] Open Mic Collegial women's reading hosted by Jeanne Lupton. Info: 510-620-1548. Third Sunday of every month, 3-5 p.m., free. Frank Bette Center for the Arts, 1601 Paru St., Alameda, 510-523-6957, [illegible].

Thursday at Word Root A weekly spoken word and poetry gathering. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Continues through Dec. 30, free. AngelFire.com/poetry/wordroot. Mediterraneum Café, 2475 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1128.

[illegible] Prose-Art Open-Mic Night Poets, storytellers, musicians, and all those writers are invited to share their work. Book early to sign up. Second and Fourth Friday of every month, 7:30 p.m., free. [illegible], [illegible], Zoomie Coffeehouse, 645 [illegible] Ave., San [illegible], 510-569-8177, ZoomieCoffeehouse.com.

[illegible] Poetry Slam Open mic with poetry and DJ music for youth under 21. The event is free to the public. Second Friday of every month, 7 p.m., free. (510) 763-4361, info@[illegible]gallery.org. Pro Arts, 150 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-763-4361, ProArtsGallery.org.

PICKS

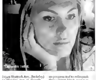
Mary Roach

How do astronauts poo? Can they kiss? At **A Great Good Place for Books** (6120 La Salle Ave., Oakland) on Friday, Aug. 13, Oakland science writer **Mary Roach**, whose bestseller *Stiff* examined cadavers, discusses her new book, ***Packing for Mars***, which investigates space-simulation programs that test ultra-high-altitude toilets and what happens when people puke while wearing space helmets. 7 p.m., free. GreatGoodPlace.Indiebound.com — *Anneli Rufus*

Alison Gopnik

Infants are more aware than we can realize, as UC Berkeley psychology professor **Alison Gopnik** reveals in ***The Philosophical Baby: What Children's Minds Tell Us About Truth, Love, and the Meaning of Life***. At **Pegasus Books Downtown** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Monday, Aug. 16, Gopnik discusses psychological and neuroscientific breakthroughs that reveal more than ever about tiny minds. 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusBooks.com — *A.R.*

Mary Roach



"Get Published" Clinic

Writing coach/book coach/author **Beth Barany**, who specializes in fantasy fiction herself, hosts a **"Get Published" clinic** at the **Oakland Public Library's Piedmont Branch** (160 41st St., Oakland) on Tuesday, Aug. 17. It's the latest in a series of writing workshops at the branch. Participants are encouraged to bring works-in-progress and to relinquish their writer's block. 5:30 p.m., free. OaklandLibrary.org — *A.R.*

Poetry/Fiction Evening

A **poetry/fiction evening** at **Pegasus Books Downtown** (2349 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley) on Tuesday, Aug. 17 features *Red Dust* author **Tamim Munaz** and *Fall of Crow* editor **M. K. Chavez**, as well as **Hollie Hardie**, **Carvell Wallace**, **Eric Nelson**, and Oakland poet **Cassandra Dallett** (sample lines: *I wiped all the cocaine for a living/scraped the piss/even tried to jerk men off/over the phone*). 7:30 p.m., free. PegasusBooks.com — *A.R.*

BODY&SOUL

Ganesh Goes to Ghana

For Oakland yoga teacher Debbie Steingesser, asanas and African dance are a perfect match

Debbie Steingesser

As the *kirtan* singers invoked the energies of Hindu deities, **Debbie Steingesser** danced ecstatically. This came naturally: a dancer's daughter, she'd been dancing since even before she began studying jazz, tap, and ballet at age five. When the chants lauded the holy couple Radha and Krishna, Steingesser found herself doing not an Indian dance but a fluid, powerful courtship dance from Guinea in West Africa.

"The merge between the two forms happened very organically when I was in my highest state of dance and yoga," said Steingesser, who will teach a **class in Afro Flow Yoga**, a modality she invented, at **Namaste Yoga** (5416 College Ave., Oakland) on Saturday, August 14. That this cross-cultural confluence — Indian spirituality, African dance, American dancer — began during a retreat in Guatemala typified the fusion that defines Steingesser's life.

While attending Boston's Berklee College of Music, Steingesser studied dance with teachers from Senegal, Mali, Ghana, and Guinea. Later, she lived in a rural Ghanaian village, teaching health and sexuality at a secondary school by day and learning to drum and dance by night. On weekends, she toured with a local ensemble.

Back in the US, she began training to become a yoga teacher. When her instructor advised her to "teach what you know," the phrase "Afro Flow Yoga" coalesced in her mind.

"What I knew was West African dance, and I believe strongly that in my practice there is no separation between West African dance and yoga," said Steingesser. "The two models best balance each other like the sun and the moon. I've never known one without the other. West African dance is an ecstatic celebration of joy, expression, community, and culture. Yoga in its essence is the same." The word "yoga" derives from the Sanskrit *yuj*, "which means to yoke, connect, or join together," Steingesser said. Both yoga and West African dance "are about bringing individuals closer to themselves, each other, community, and spirit. It ultimately became clear that my intention was to introduce some of the wild, playful, musical, spontaneous, explosive energy of West African dance into the yoga world — not as a vehicle for performance, but as a way of connecting more deeply to self."

Afro Flow workshops start with grounding exercises and chants. Next, live African music accompanies a Vinyasa yoga sequence infused with African dance techniques. Finally, Steingesser presents lessons in modified versions of actual African dances.

"I add my own twist on the movements in order to relate them to the deity/theme we invoked at the beginning of class. For example, if we chanted to Ganesh, who holds a noose to remove obstacles, I'll introduce a dance movement where we're spinning a noose and I'll ask students to think of obstacles in their lives that need to be cleared. I'll also incorporate Ganesh mudras into the dance."

Meanwhile, musicians play the *ngoni*, *djembe*, and *balafon*. "Dance has always been my heartbeat and my deepest outlet for self-expression," said Steingesser, who hopes to visit India next year. 1 p.m., $30. 510-547-9642 or NamasteRockridge.com

— *Anneli Rufus*

To share this story, type: [illegible]

HEALTH & WELLNESS

AIDS Project of the East Bay The Alameda County organization provides free HIV counseling and testing, support groups, case management services, assistance with benefits, transportation, and emergency housing, emergency food referrals, and more. Volunteer opportunities available. Daily. AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1755 Broadway, Oakland. 510-663-7979, APEB.org.

Bay Street Stroller Boogie Fitness program for moms to incorporate power walking, jogging, body toning, and strength and [illegible] training with their baby strollers. Info: 800-555-5305 or StrollerStrides.net/[illegible]. Fridays, 9:30 a.m. First class is free; $120 for a 10-class pass. Old Navy, 5675 Bay St., Emeryville.

Breast Cancer Support Group for Spanish Speaking Women Registration required; call 510-869-8213. Third and First Monday of every month, 4-6 p.m. Free. [illegible] Cancer [illegible] Center, 450 30th St., suite 3810, Oakland. 510-869-[illegible]

Compassionate Communication Workshop for cancer patients and their families focusing on empathy and honest self-expression. Facilitated by [illegible]. Reservations required; call 925-933-0107. Fridays, 2-4 p.m. Continues through Sept. 17. Free. Wellness Community, 3276 [illegible] Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-933-0107.

Free Fitness, Oakland Series: Menopause & Osteoporosis Prevention Learn about how to employ techniques from traditional Chinese medicine to alleviate night sweats, insomnia, and other symptoms of menopause, as well as prevent osteoporosis. With Dr. John Nieters, L.Ac. and Tracy Zollinger, L.Ac. Reservations required: call 510-814-8500. Sun., Aug. 15, 10 a.m.-noon. Free. Rhythmix Cultural Works, 2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda. 510-545-5060, Rhythmix.org.

Kerry's Kids: Oakland Elizabeth Street A mobile health van where doctors provide immunizations, health education, check-ups, blood pressure checks, and head [illegible] screenings entirely free to children. On-site physicians are David [illegible] and Cara Lewis. Please bring your child's yellow immunization card. Second Wednesday of every month, 5:30-7 p.m., 510-444-6320. Oakland Elizabeth House, 6423 Colby St., Oakland. 510-663-1388, [illegible]House.org.

Newly Diagnosed Breast Cancer Workshop With guest medical experts, and group talk. Space is limited; call 925-933-0107 to register. Wednesdays, 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 27. Free. Wellness Community, 3276 [illegible] Ave., Walnut Creek, 925-933-0107.

RELIGION & SPIRITUALITY

Alta Bates Summit Reading Summit's Alameda Rehabilitation Program This program includes instruction on therapeutic exercises you can do at home, education on clinically relevant topics, and guided strength training in a workshop group setting. Physician referral required. Instruction takes place at 3081 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley (next to [illegible]). Info: 510-204-1554. Thursdays, 10 a.m., Tuesdays, 10 a.m. $64.

Angel Light Metaphysical Fair With Akashic records readings, archangel readings, past life healings, [illegible] readings, crystal energy readings, and more. Sun., Aug. 15, 1-4 p.m. $15 for 15 minutes. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Wy., Berkeley.

Angel Reading Day Angel readings, aura healings and more from [illegible]. Sat., Aug. 14, 1-4 p.m. $40. Angel Light Books, 3347 Martin Luther King Jr. Wy., Berkeley.

Brain Injury Life Skills Support Group Three different support groups offered for brain injury survivors and their caregivers. Info: 510-204-1304. Second Thursday of every month, 6:30 p.m. Fourth Thursday of every month, 6:30-8 p.m. Free. Alta Bates Medical Center Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

Fibromyalgia Support Group Sufferers and their supporters are invited to attend. Third Tuesday of every month, 12-2 p.m. Free. 510-444-3073. Alta Bates Summit Center Herrick Campus, Berkeley. 510-204-4444.

YOGA & BODYWORK

InterPlay as a Life Practice Cynthia Winton-Henry and other InterPlay leaders lead an ongoing class on moving, speaking, [illegible], and playing. Fridays, 10-11:30 a.m. $10-$20. InterPlace, 2273 Telegraph Ave., Oakland. 510-465-2797, InterPlay.org.

PICKS

Abhidharma Course

[illegible] the workings of mind and consciousness, *Abhidharma*, is the topic of a course taught by Harvard University Buddhist chaplain **Lama Migmar** Friday through Sunday, Aug. 13-15, at **Ewam Choden** (254 Cambridge Ave., Kensington). Having founded Massachusetts **Sakya Institute**, Migmar supervised the editing of the Golden Manuscripts of the Five Founding Masters of Sakya. Friday, 7-9 p.m.; Sat.-Sun., 10 a.m.-noon and 3-5 p.m. $200-$250. EwamChoden.org

— *Anneli Rufus*

Women's Self-Defense Course

Battle mock attackers in padded suits at a two-weekend, **women-only self-defense course** at **Impact Bay Area** (1724 Mandela Pkwy., Oakland) on Saturday and Sunday, Aug. 14-15 and 21-22. Featuring individual teacher-student attention and focusing on the emotional and physical facets of attack, the course leads to "muscle memory," in which the body remembers what to do in the case of a crisis. 5-9 p.m., $495. ImpactBayArea.com — *A.R.*

Tao Te Ching Discussion

Manifest plainness. Embrace simplicity. Reduce selfishness. Have few desires. Go with the flow. These and thousands more aphorisms enrich the *Tao Te Ching*, a book whose origins are veiled in mystery but which serves as **Taoism**'s sacred text. At **Grace North Church** (2138 Cedar St., Berkeley) on Sunday, Aug. 15, *Tao Te Ching* translator **John Mabry** leads a **discussion** on a key verse from the text. 4 p.m., free. GraceNorthChurch.org — *A.R.*

Lama Migmar

Natural Menopause Workshop

Nothing spells hassle like night sweats, insomnia, mood swings, hot flashes, and other conditions commonly experienced during menopause — at least in Western countries. At **Rhythmix Cultural Works** (2513 Blanding Ave., Alameda) on Sunday, Aug. 15, acupuncturists **John Nieters** and **Tracy Zollinger** offer a **workshop** on natural, practical, affordable menopause and osteoporosis prevention. 10 a.m., free. Rhythmix.org — *A.R.*

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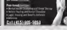
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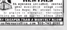
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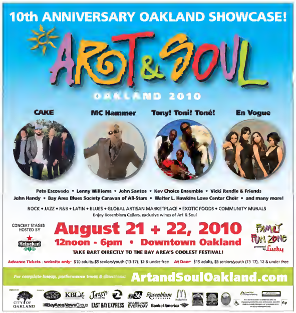

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AQUARIUM AGE

STILL WAITING TO EXHALE

For the week of August 11-17 2010

The world may not have come to an end on July 26 with a single cinematic event reminiscent of a scene directed by Michael Bay, but there were enough micro Armageddons to tilt plenty of personal worlds at a new angle in the Sun. And this week, as dynamic planetary patterns continue to generate an unsettled atmosphere, reactions to these personal paradigm shifts are likely to play out as a need to act out. Expect outbursts that at first glance seem disproportionate to the immediate or obvious cause, but upon deeper inspection reveal anxiety about how to handle the current emotional disruption. While the worst of the astral weather is starting to recede (it won't be over completely until mid-September), we are still in the wake of gigantic waves of change — and that translates to continued uncertainty about the future. So if and when you encounter extreme emotional reactions, yours or others', try to remember to breathe before you blurt. Beyond the pleasure of blowing off steam, there's no need to contribute to the agitation. We co-create the future with our every thought, word, and deed, and although we can't necessarily control what is already set in motion, we can make every effort to neutralize negativity by staying positive and enthusiastic about the potential for conscious transformation.

Several factors contribute to this week's disconcerting vibe. First, Uranus retrogrades back into Pisces on August 13, where it will stay until March 11, 2011. Its return to Pisces will dial down the heat of the moment just a tad — say, from eleven to ten. But the planet of revolution continues to stay in close proximity to Jupiter, who also returns to Pisces on September 9, which means that startling plot twists will continue to confound even the best prepared. Be aware: As Uranus and Jupiter retrograde and revisit the events of the last several months, so will we. Don't be surprised if you have a change of heart, but also understand that when Uranus moves back into Aries, you just might change your heart and mind again.

Next, we are still in the throes of the final Saturn/Pluto square, which is exact on August 21. This signature symbolizes self-destruction and the poisonous venom of harsh judgment that denies the humanity of another. At the risk of repeating myself, avoid pointing a blaming finger. Instead, recognize that most of what we judge so severely in others is what we despise most in ourselves.

We are also in the approach to the next Mercury Retrograde phase, which begins on August 20 and ends on September 12. Mercury Retrograde is always about review and reflection, and because we have so much to think about, this retrograde ought to be quite revelatory. Be aware that the three days before and after a retrograde pose just as much of a problem as the retrograde itself, so back up all of your data now.

As the week unfolds, do your best to manage the stress by focusing on what brings you joy. While that may involve overcoming enormous obstacles, a joyous heart is a resilient heart.

If you know your Ascendant and/or your Moon Sign, read that too.

ARIES Just let the brouhaha pass without getting involved. Stay anchored in the truth of your heart, not agreeing with those you love for fear of losing them, and not arguing with them for fear of being ignored.

TAURUS The missing piece of the puzzle is knowing how to harmonize a wide variety of opinions about how things should be. Soothe the pent-up tension by finding the positive ground of compromise, and everyone will feel like a winner.

GEMINI Try not to let concerns about the future devolve into constant anxiety about what's going to happen next. Instead, stay in present time and make your decisions based on the current situation.

CANCER I could promise external relief, but the only genuine break in the weather is within you. Adjust your attitude, and you'll find the potential for positive breakthrough.

LEO Simply listen. But don't mistake this listening for anything casual. Hear with your heart as well as your soul, and you'll hear so much more than is actually said.

VIRGO Manage your expectations, and you won't be disappointed if others fail to meet your high standards. Remember, not everyone is as efficient as you or as invested in a positive outcome.

LIBRA Resist the temptation to pull away as a means of self-protection. Instead, soften your stern approach. If you can stay open, you'll access the potential for positive solutions.

SCORPIO The best way to keep brooding at bay is to embrace the broadest possible perspective, one that includes time as well as space. From that vantage point you'll start to make sense of your situation.

SAGITTARIUS In the realm of personal transformation, it's not possible to go through too many changes — but it is probable that going through too many changes too quickly will overwhelm. Pace yourself, Grasshopper, and you'll do fine.

CAPRICORN Channel your intensity into work, but spend your time and energy wisely. Apply your innate discipline and organization skills to every project, and you'll handle each situation with ease.

AQUARIUS Resist the attraction of a quick fix or spiritual bypass. You are processing a lot of information, and it may take you more than a moment to arrive at what you really feel about your current circumstances.

PISCES As Uranus moves back into your Sign, déjà vu becomes part of your vocabulary. Just realize that you are not backsliding. You are simply revisiting areas that are still in need of attention and awareness. ●

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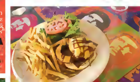

The veggie bacon cheeseburger is called the Space Cowboy

Chris Duffey

LET'S DO THE TIME WARP AGAIN

Diner food gets updated fleshlessly with a shout-out to Che at the Saturn Cafe.

By Anneli Rufus

It's called the FLT, which stands for Fakin' Bacon, lettuce, and tomato, and it's a revelation: a glorious sunburst of juicy, fresh, organic produce and time-tested, masterful thick meat on square sourdough slices whose grill-kissed, summer-cloud whiteness shouts *Classic sandwich born in the USA*. Bisected into jaunty triangles, it delivers the salty, smoky, chewy, crispy, protein-rich power-punch of a BLT but with a deft disappearing pork switcheroo that renders this, for vegetarians who miss the taste of meat, the lunchroom version of prescription eyeglasses: Once I was nearly blind, but now I see.

Sharing the sandwich on its sturdy white plate is a mercifully ungreasy golden stack of those thumb-thick guilty pleasures known as steak-cut fries. That name's ironic in an entirely fleshless restaurant, the brand-new Berkeley sister of a beloved Santa Cruz institution. By any name, such fries are ones you see here because the **Saturn Cafe** is a retro diner, a fact made fuse-punchingly clear by its glorious silver-glitter vinyl booths and dinette chairs, swivel-stooled counter, open kitchen, and walls whose hue in a good mood you'd call bubblegum pink, in a bad mood Pepto-Bismol.

One does not want to be in a bad mood before a meal, especially not when nacho fries and grilled-cheese sandwiches and peanut-sauce tofu and **McConnell's Ice Cream** milkshakes are on the menu. But damn. After we ordered, time stopped. Ten minutes. Twenty. Then more. Other diners were waiting, too, most of them wearing fixed so-glad-to-be-here grins as hipster music blared and the clangor of dishes, chairs, and conversation made me want to cry. This is a shiny hard place with no soft spots to absorb spare sound.

And it is an ironic place. Painted on our wall, visible from every table, is a quote: *At the risk of seeming ridiculous, let me say that the true revolutionary is guided by a great feeling of love.* — ***Che Guevara***

It's the only quote in here. Printed in loopy, birthday-cardish black, these are the words of someone who at the moment in history when American restaurants such as those the Saturn Cafe emulates were flourishing, was supervising firing squads.

Developed in the 19th century but flourishing in the mid-20th, the quintessential American diner serves affordable, filling food amid friendly, casual comfort. Diners were fast food's warmhearted ancestor: a quick, customer-centric, class-blind home-away-from-home for midcentury drifters and doctors, road-tripping families, and first-daters teetering toward love. With their bottomless cups of coffee, diners are capsules of the American Dream.

The Saturn Cafe pays homage to all this, but it's a wink-wink homage refracted through the increasingly postmodern lenses of every decade since: a silvery, glittery-swervy-curvy mimicry-mockery in which midcentury America looks beautiful and deluded and doomed, its dream hilariously failed. That America-hating, execution-facilitating Marxist guerrilla Che reigns here — not only on the wall but also depicted two dozen times on our tabletop à la **Andy Warhol** — says much about a culture that no longer knows the meaning of hypocrisy.

When our Super Sampler arrived, we fell upon this mountain range of indulgently creamy sweet potato fries, crisp, salty, slender French fries, juicy, batter-fried zucchini sticks, crunchy taquitos, and dense onion rings. Competing for attention with the big ketchup and mustard squirt bottles on every table is wasabi dip, another of the time-warpers that make the Saturn's vegan/vegetarian and mainly seasonal/local/organic menu so ***American Graffiti*** meets ***Blade Runner*** meets ***An Inconvenient Truth***.

Our huevos rancheros comprised black beans boiled to perfect doneness, nestled into cheesy, fluffy scrambled eggs: a protein paradise big enough for two. Our baked mac-and-cheese was a bit light on the cheese, but the mac — pasta shells, actually — was exquisitely textured, neither too firm nor too soft. Diner food is comfort food, and for some, meatless diner food is double-comfort food. Yet for us on that first visit, it was double-comfort food partaken in discomfort, between the din and Che's homicidal glare. How would he like the prices here, the $9.50 nachos and $7.25 cheese fries? What would he say about the Saturn Cafe T-shirts and other merchandise for sale?

Subsequent visits — one of them cortex-curdlingly loud, the next not quite — yielded further revelations in the form of **Soyrizo**-stuffed breakfast burritos, zesty Southwestern posole thick with earthy, flesh-tone hominy, and the Cowgirl Blues Salad, loaded with mock bacon, mock chicken, blue-cheese dressing, and blue-cheese chunks. Its name exemplifies that postmodern knack for referencing multiple eras in a single go, in this case name-checking **Tom Robbins**' cult favorite 1976 novel ***Even Cowgirls Get the Blues***.

In a similar vein, the soul-satisfying barbecued Fakin' Bacon veggie cheeseburger that's called the Space Cowboy is funny because (1) it's a veggie burger, (2) its name comprises "space" and "cowboys," two Fifties fetishes, and (3) its name is also the name of a character in a **Steve Miller Band** top-ten hit from 1973, when retro Fifties kitsch with a cocaine inflection was faddish.

Currently open nightly until midnight, the Saturn is awaiting permission to stay open until 3 a.m. The Saturn's **Space Lounge**, featuring live acts, is due to open in September.

Behind those glad-to-be-here grins are several inconvenient truths. One is that we Americans love to sprawl in warm, spill-proof booths. Another is that some can't reconcile their love of diner food with what it represents: that shiny-Chrysler postwar glow they know only to mock. With its massive milkshakes and sandwiches stuffed so full that they drip, the Saturn lets its patrons eat diner food in a diner while feeling superior to diner food and diners. Hold that pose. Otherwise we might be mistaken for American dream chasers after all. ●

To share this story, type: ebx.ly/saturn

Editor@EastBayExpress.com

The Saturn Cafe

2175 Allston Way, Berkeley 94704
510-848-6505
SaturnCafe.com
Hours: Daily 10 a.m.-midnight.
Cash, all major credit cards.

Sample Menu

FLT	$7.95
Super Sampler	$9.95
Space Cowboy	$9.50
Cowgirl Blues Salad	$9.50
Milkshake	$5.25

RESTAURANTS & CAFES

This guide only lists restaurants recently recommended by Express food articles. You can find complete reviews for all of these restaurants at EastBayExpress.com. Our print listings rotate regularly as space allows. Our complete Dining Guide is available online, where it is searchable by neighborhood, cuisine, price, and more. Price codes assume diners will order a main course and beverage, share appetizers and desserts, and tip adequately. $—up to $10 per person. $$—$10–$15. $$$—$15–$30. $$$$—more than $30.

ALAMEDA

Bartolina 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-5887 (California Cuisine) $$$

[illegible] 2211 Central Ave., Alameda, 510-337-9933 (Italian) $

Burma [illegible] 1345 Park St., Alameda, (510) 522-6200 (Southeast Asian) $$

Everett & Jones Barbeque 2900 Main St., Alameda, 510-[illegible] (Barbecue) $$

Forbidden Island 1304 Lincoln Ave., Alameda, 510-749-0332 (Bars/Good Fusion/Caribbean/Eclectic/Tiki/[illegible]/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] 1515 Park St., Alameda, 510-523-0130 (Cajun) $$

[illegible] 1313 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-0111 (Tapas/Small Plates) $

[illegible] 4440 Park St., Alameda, 510-769-[illegible] (Mexican) $$

Otaez Restaurant 319 Webster St., Alameda, 510-521-9090 (Mexican) $

[illegible] Sushi 1429 Park St., Alameda, 510-865-1148 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Zen 2315 Santa Clara Ave., Alameda, 510-521-1578 (Eclectic/Exotic/Good Fusion/Chinese/Hawaiian/Italian/Japanese/Sushi/Korean/Pizza/Seafood/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

ALBANY, KENSINGTON & BERKELEY-SOLANO

Ajanta 1888 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-4373 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $$

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1591 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-526-8185 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

Bistro 1491 1491 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-8085 (American/Southeast Asian/Cajun/Creole/Italian/Barbecue/Sandwiches) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, (510) [illegible] (Vietnamese) $$

[illegible] Bakery & Cafe 846 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-524-1734 (Bakery/American) $$

Solano Taqueria 1881 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1881 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $

Cafeina 1339 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-526-6800 (Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

The Cape Cod 1150 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-528-3308 (Seafood) $$

China Village 1335 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-525-2285 (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 1575 Fairmount Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-3433 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

[illegible] 1436 Solano Ave., Albany, 510-558-3288 (Cambodian/Laotian/Southeast Asian/Southern/Soul Food/Thai/Burmese) $

[illegible] 825-827 San Pablo Ave., Albany, 510-526-2552 (French/Italian) $$$

[illegible] 1558 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-528-1540 (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 1853 Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-525-5950 (Pizza) $-$$

BERKELEY-DOWNTOWN

[illegible] 2142 Center St., Berkeley, 510-848-8911 ([illegible]) $$

[illegible] Real Good Fresh Food 2223 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-2122 (American/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Saturday Farmers Market, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Angeline's Louisiana Kitchen 2261 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-6900 (Southern/Soul Food) $-$$

Arinell 2119 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-4035 (Pizza) $

Au Coquelet Cafe 2000 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-0433 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Breakfast/Brunch/Eclectic/Exotic) $

Azerbaijan Restaurant 2126 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-704-8116 (Middle Eastern) $$

[illegible] 2271 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-1790 (American/English/Irish/Bars) $$

[illegible] 2120 [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3890 (Wine Bar/American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Chinese/Malaysian/Fusion) $$

[illegible] 2011 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-5390 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] 1902 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1431 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

Chick-O-Pea's 2120 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8330 (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] 2370 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-8080 (Desserts/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] 2405 [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-643-8323 (Eclectic/Exotic) $

[illegible] 1900 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-868-0735 (American)

Flacos Center Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

International House 2299 Piedmont Ave., Berkeley, 510-642-8480 (Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 2050 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Brewery/Brewpub) $$

La Note 2377 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1535 (Breakfast/Brunch/French) $$-$$$

[illegible] [illegible] Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-0850 (American/California Cuisine/French/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

San Francisco Soup Company 2512 [illegible] Way, Berkeley, 510-848-7887 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] 2858 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-3851 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Top Dog 2160 Center St., Berkeley, 510-849-0176 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8630 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 2250 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-6801 (Desserts/Ice Cream) $

BERKELEY-NORTH

Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 1600 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-2827 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $

[illegible] [illegible] San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-558-1011 (Bakery/Mexican) $

Cesar 1515 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0222 (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-849-0984 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$

The Cheese Board Pizza Collective 1512 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3055 (Bakery/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $

[illegible] 1501 Shattuck Ave., Suite C, Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Indian/[illegible] Ice Cream/[illegible]) $$

[illegible] [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1800 (Chinese/Dessert/Ice Cream) $

[illegible] Cafe [illegible] Solano Ave., Berkeley, 510-529-4955 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani/Tibetan) $-$$

Fatapple's 1346 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley, 510-526-2260 (Bakery/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $-$$

Flacos Rose Street at Shattuck Avenue, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Gregoire 2109 Cedar St., Berkeley, 510-883-1893 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Imperial Tea Court 1511 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-540-8888 (Chinese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] 11 [illegible] Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8510 ([illegible]

Top Dog 2503 Hearst Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-1241 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

Full Reviews Online
[illegible] 500 reviews searchable by food, region and price
at **EastBayExpress.com**
or **m.EastBayExpress.com**

BERKELEY-SOUTH

Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Berkeley Farmers Market, Berkeley, 510-548-3333 (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] of India [illegible] Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-848-7044 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Cafe Valparaiso [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-3208 (South American) $$

Finfine 3109 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-0161 (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$

Flacos Derby Street at Martin Luther King, Jr. Way, Berkeley (Mexican/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

Holy Land 2965 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-665-1672 (Middle Eastern) $

[illegible] Cafe 2454 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-843-0940 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $

Kirala 2100 Ward St., Berkeley, 510-549-3486 (Japanese/Sushi) $$

Manpuku 2977 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-848-1530 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$

[illegible] 2395 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (Greek/Turkish/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

[illegible] Indian Cuisine 2449 Sacramento St., Berkeley, 510-841-6105 (Indian/Pakistani) $

[illegible] [illegible] Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-1224 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Paragon Bar & Cafe 50 Tunnel Rd., Berkeley, 510-549-8585 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

Rick & Ann's Restaurant and Catering 2922 Domingo Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-8538 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $$

[illegible] [illegible] College Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1111 (Korean) $-$$

Smokehouse 3115 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3640 (American) $

Sweet Adeline Bakeshop 3350 Adeline St., Berkeley, 510-595-7381 (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$

[illegible] of Africa [illegible] Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-647-8664 (African/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$

Top Dog 2534 Durant Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-5967 (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] [illegible] St., Berkeley, 510-[illegible] (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $-$$

[illegible] [illegible] Solano St., Berkeley, 510-849-3430 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Vietnamese) $

BERKELEY-WEST & EMERYVILLE

900 Grayson 900 Grayson St., Berkeley, 510-704-9900 (California Cuisine) $$

Anchalee 1094 Dwight Way, Berkeley, 510-848-[illegible] (Thai/Burmese) $$

Arizmendi Bakery and Pizzeria 4301 San Pablo Ave., Emeryville, 510-547-0880 (Bakery/Pizza/Vegetarian/Vegan) $

The Bread Workshop 1305 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-649-9140 (Bakery/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $

[illegible] Restaurant [illegible] University Ave., Berkeley, 510-841-0960 (Nepalese) $

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RECENTLY REVIEWED

Zatis

4029 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-658-3056. Casual attractive Piedmont hangout serves a nice selection of Turkish specialties plus a few Cal-Med salads, pastas, and seafood. Kick off the meal with grilled calamari on a bed of arugula or filo-wrapped cylinders of smoked cheese and parsley. Yummy entrées include sovan begendi (eggplant with roasted spinach and artichokes), manti (beef-filled dumplings draped in yogurt, mint, and tomato), and a particularly tender smoky sis kebab of cubed and minced lamb. The brief wine list includes two Turkish vintages. Get the creamy coffee custard for dessert. $$$

Urbann Turbann

1871 Euclid Ave., Berkeley, 510-704-0104. Mere steps from UC Berkeley's North Gate, husband-and-wife team Aman and Chandler Mahal offer all-organic, cruelty-free, made-to-order wraps as big as bricks. Your choice of pillowy house-baked naan or dairy-free, whole-grain roti is rolled tightly around masala potatoes and salad greens plus your choice of a number of slightly Berkeleyized Indian classics including boneless Sonoma chicken marinated overnight in organic yogurt, then tandoor-cooked over an open flame. Orinda-bred Aman began tweaking his family's favorite Punjabi recipes while still a teenager: his Urbann Turbann pork vindaloo is inspired by his personal favorite eighteen-hour procedure for preparing barbecued pulled pork. Meatless fillings include Karahi paneer, mushroom mattar, and herbed seasonal vegetables. The fillings can also be had over basmati rice in bowls, while Berkeley's best new bargain might be Urbann Turbann's $1 potato samosas. $

Sumo Grub

2245 Milvia St., Berkeley, 510-356-3967. Owner/chef Jason Sum makes and bakes the dough himself for the tempura pizza that is Sumo Grub's signature dish. Three slices of thick-crusted cheese pizza are tempura-fried into three fluffy chewy heavenly wedges, each the size and shape of a stapler, drizzled with a basil-spiked, twenty-ingredient sweet-and-tart creamy vinaigrette known as "sumo sauce." Granted, batter-fried pizza is not for everyone. That's why Sum, whose family also owns Berkeley Thai House and other restaurants, also offers burgers, salads, sandwiches, sausages, Mexican dishes, rice plates, and sides, all at bargain prices. Several items are vegan, some are vegetarian, and some are gluten-free. $

Revival Bar & Kitchen

2102 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-9950. Amy Murray's bustling downtown venue celebrates the Bay Area's bounty of fresh, organic foodstuffs with flair and a sense of fun. Fig and marrow flatbread, creamy pork rillettes with lemon chutney, handmade pasta with pea tendrils and trumpet mushrooms, and a mixed pig plate of sausage, tenderloin, shoulder, and belly are among the menu standouts. Get the fruit galette for dessert. Inventive cocktail menu. $$$

Bay Wolf

3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004. Michael Wild's standard-bearing Cal-Med destination is as essential now as when it opened 35 years ago. The frequently changing seasonal menu might include house-made lemon pasta with grilled prawns and blistered cherry tomatoes; an enormous, juicy rack of pork with braised romano beans; or the house specialty, duck, served grilled, smoked, or with its liver transformed into a light, creamy flan. Get the luscious berry pudding for dessert. Comfy setting in a reconfigured Piedmont Craftsman home. $$$$

Cafe Aquarius

1268 45th St., Emeryville, 510-655-7682. Patrick Fochan opened Cafe Aquarius in 2007 after many years spent learning the pastry trade. A nationwide search for an executive chef led him to Marianne Zdobysz, whose past gigs include Seattle's Boca, Blowfish, and Madison Park Café. Her lemon-ricotta pancakes are the restaurant's signature dish: sunny yellow and float-away light. Palio coffee augments the comfort food served in generous portions: egg dishes, burgers, sandwiches, daily specials, and soups. All sauces are made from scratch; another standout is the bone-jarringly good biscuits in sausage-studded country gravy. $$

[illegible] • 6121 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-547-4725 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Cafe Aquarius 1268 45th St., Emeryville, 510-655-2182 (Breakfast/Brunch/American/Coffeehouse) $
Cafe Rouge 1782 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-1440 (California Cuisine/French/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
[illegible] 1325 40th St., Emeryville 510-923-0491 (Market) $$
Doyle Street Cafe 5515 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-547-3662 (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $
[illegible] 1722 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8309 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 1955 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, (510) 548-8760 (Barbecue) $$
[illegible] 1711 University Ave., Berkeley, (510) 843-5385 (Italian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
[illegible] 1575 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-524-1466 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Indus Village 1920 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-549-3909 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
Jimmy Bean's • 1290 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-528-3435 (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Juan's Place 941 Carleton St., Berkeley, 510-845-6904 (Mexican) $-$$
Kabana 1106 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-3358 (Indian/Pakistani/Kosher/Halal) $
KC's Bar-B-Que 2613 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-1140 (Barbecue) $-$$
Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 2033 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-845-1652 (Pizza/[illegible]) $
Lois the Pie Queen 851 60th St., Oakland, 510-658-5616 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
[illegible] 1347 40th St., Emeryville, 510-923-0381 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
O Chamé 1830 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-841-8783 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Japanese/Sushi/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Picante 1328 Sixth St., Berkeley, 510-525-3121 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $
Priya Indian Cuisine 2072 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-644-2077 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
[illegible] 800 Heinz Ave., Berkeley, 510-84[illegible]-7482 (Indian/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$
Rudy's Can't Fail Cafe 4081 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-594-1221 (American/Diner) $-$$
[illegible] 599 University Ave., Berkeley, 510-486-0800 (Deli/Seafood) $
Sea Salt 2512 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-883-1720 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Seafood) $$-$$$
Skates on the Bay 100 Seawall Dr., Berkeley, 510-549-1900 (American/Seafood) $$
Sketch 1809A Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-665-5650 (Dessert/Ice Cream) $
Spenger's Fresh Fish Grotto 1919 Fourth St., Berkeley 510-845-7771 (Seafood) $$-$$$
Tacubaya 1788 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-525-5160 (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$
Townhouse Bar & Grill 5862 Doyle St., Emeryville, 510-652-6151 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Vik's 2390 Fourth St., Berkeley, 510-644-4432 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $

CONCORD, MARTINEZ & PLEASANT HILL

[illegible] 1111 Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-691-5020 (Central American/Salvadoran) $
[illegible] • 4375C Clayton Rd., Concord, 925-685-0718 (Peruvian/South American) $-$$
[illegible] Kabob 2005 Monument Blvd., Concord, 925-689-5488 (Afghan/Persian) $
DJ's Bistro 1975 Salvio? Sutter St., Concord, 925-825-3311 (Eastern European/German/Austrian) $$
E.J. Phair Brewing Company and Alehouse 2151 Salvio St., Suite L, Concord 925-691-4253 (American/Brewpub) $-$$
Hero's Gyros and Hot Dogs 240 Golf Club Rd., Pleasant Hill 925-687-6464 (Greek/Turkish) $
Kinder's [illegible] Meats 2227 [illegible] Ave., Pleasant Hill 925-798-2333 (Barbecue/Deli) $
Kinder's [illegible] Meats 1820 Arnold Industrial Way, Concord, 925-685-8087 (Barbecue/Deli) $
[illegible] 600 Crescent Dr., Pleasant Hill (925) 681-2851 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $
La Piñata 2311 Willow Pass Rd., Concord, 925-609-[illegible] (Mexican) $$
[illegible] Ristorante 2118 Willow Pass Rd., [illegible], Concord 925-691-6080 (Italian) $-$$$
Nibblers Eatery & Wine Bar 1922 Oak Park Blvd., Pleasant Hill 925-944-0402 (Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$
Los [illegible] Market 1799 [illegible] Dr., Concord 925-685-7151 (Mexican) $
Taqueria Los [illegible] 2005 Monument

Blvd., Suite E, Concord, 925-682-7120 (Mexican) $
Oakland, Ristorante 2151 Salvio St., Ste. S, Concord, 925-521-9011 (Italian) $$-$$$

EL CERRITO, RICHMOND & NORTH

El Dorado 3748 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-222-0887 (Italian/Peruvian/South American) $$
Golya Hot Pot City 3308 Pablo St., Richmond, 510-525-3388 (Chinese) $-$$
The Green Fish 20950 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-707-3323 (American/Seafood) $$$-$$$$
Hidden City Cafe 109 Park Pl., Richmond, 510-965-6745 (American/California Cuisine) $$
Hotel Mac 50 Washington Avenue, Richmond, 510-233-0576 (American) $$$
Joe's & Jenny's Chinese 10086 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-524-9286 (Chinese/Vietnamese) $
The Barrel 335 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito, 510-524-4027 (Deli/Gourmet/Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $
Oakland 3803 San Pablo Dam Rd., El Sobrante, 510-223-8215 (Cocktail American) $
Katana-Ya Ramen 10044-10046 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Kinder's Sandwich Meats 3606 San Pablo Ave., Suite 1, Hercules, 510-724-2330 (Barbecue/Deli) $
Krung Thep 11224 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-0818 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Rock Angel's 6135 Moeser Ave., El Cerrito, 510-232-9778 (Steak House) $$-$$$
Marylee's Restaurant Heights 1572 Sycamore Ave., Suite I, Hercules, 510-245-1301 (Chinese) $
Pho Hoa Thai 12840 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-1228 (Vietnamese) $-$$
Plaza Garibaldi 250 23rd St., Richmond, 510-234-1952 (Mexican/Peruvian) $-$$
Ristorante Don Rosa 2590 Flagstaff Dr., Pinole, 510-223-5620 (Italian) $$
Sunflower Thai 3.. Pierce St., #B1, Richmond, 510-558-9130 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
Sweet Thai Restaurant 12200 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-232-5542 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Oakland 1560 Sycamore Ave., Unit B, Hercules, 510-245-1600 (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Taqueria La Bonita 12345 San Pablo Ave., Richmond, 510-235-2280 (Central American/Mexican/Salvadoran) $
El Oakland 14871 San Pablo Ave., San Pablo, 510-215-7683 (Central American/Salvadoran) $
Wee Thai 844 Willow Ave., Oakland, 510-799-8800 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $$
Yen Fee Oakland Restaurant 10150 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, 510-528-6847 (Chinese/Seafood) $-$$

FREMONT NEWARK & UNION CITY

Casa Sybella 40891 Warm Springs Blvd., Fremont, 510-668-0930 (Chinese) $-$$ $
Dosa Dosa 3954 Mowry Ave., Fremont, 510-790-3400 (Indian/Pakistani/Tapas/Small Plates) $-$$
Oakland 33330 Alvarado Niles Rd., Union City, 510-471-7057 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
De Afghanan Street Kabob 37405 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-745-5689 (Afghan/Middle Eastern) $-$$
Nonna Restaurant 3986 Washington Blvd., Fremont, 510-659-5600 (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $-$$
Bakery Oakland 43761 Boscell Rd., Fremont, 510-440-1538 (Belgian/Bakery/Deli) $
L&L Barbecue Barbecue 1688 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-324-8838 (Barbecue/Hawaiian) $
Little Saigon 1773 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-487-9868 (Chinese) $
Lovely Sweets and Snacks 42031 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-657-1412 (Bakery/Indian/Pakistani) $
Masala Grill 39155 Paseo Padre Pkwy, Fremont, 510-797-7700 (Chinese/Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
New Oasis 1745 Decoto Rd., Union City, 510-675-5485 (Chinese) $
Ming's Main Street Restaurant 6066 Mowry Ave., Newark, 510-795-2809 (Chinese) $$
Salang Pass 37462 Fremont Blvd., Fremont, 510-795-9200 (Afghan/Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $$
Udupi Bhavan 5988 New Park Mall Rd., Newark, 510-794-8499 (Indian/Pakistani/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Woodlands 39203 Cedar Blvd., Newark, 510-494-9222 (Indian/Pakistani) $

Full Reviews Online
About 500 reviews searchable by food, region, and price at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

HAYWARD & SAN LEANDRO

B Street Cafe 1213 B St., Hayward, 510-582-3558 (French) $$$
Bacchus Italian Oakland 29180 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-276-7316 (Italian) $-$$
Buffalo Bill's Oakland 1082 B St., Hayward, 510-886-9823 (American/Brewpub) $
Buon Appetito 992 B St., Hayward, 510-247-0220 (Italian) $$
[illegible] 1.. Hesperian Blvd., San Leandro, 510-895-5508 (India Fusion/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Francis & James Barbeque 2065 Salvio, Hayward, 510-581-3222 (Barbecue) $$
Grand Taipei 25836 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-7183 (Chinese) $$
Kan Yang Ocean Bar-B-Q Restaurant 22345 Mission Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-2762 (Barbecue/Korean) $$
The Hayward Steakhouse 22877 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 510-537-5522 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $-$$
Hong Kong BBQ Restaurant 20618 Redwood Rd., Castro Valley, 510-886-1188 (Chinese) $
JD's Restaurant and Pies 2637 Castro Valley Blvd., Castro Valley, 510-880-0072 (Diner) $
L&S Armenian Barbecue 22500 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward, 510-785-0880 (Barbecue/Kabobs) $
La Piñata 2089 Bancroft St., San Leandro, 510-357-8905 (Mexican) $$
La Piñata 934 Rose St., Oakland, 510-938-7907 (Mexican) $$
The Wedding Diner 915 B St., Hayward, 510-538-9210 (American/Diner) $
Sessions 142 B St., Hayward, 510-583-0344 (California Cuisine/Seafood) $$$
Okgane Korean Restaurant 1292 Davis St., San Leandro, 510-568-4793 (Korean) $$-$$$
Pot Pie Paradise 2522 Jones Rd., Hayward, 510-781-4794 (American) $
The Sister's House 29914 Fremont Blvd., Hayward, 510-538-8500 (Korean) $$
Oasis Oakland Barbecue Restaurant 404 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-533-5000 (Caribbean) $$
Thai Satay 1270 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-351-7385 (Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $-$$
Tsuru Sushi 1427 E. 14th St., San Leandro, 510-357-3251 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$
Vi Restaurant 277 Marina Bl., San Leandro, 510-351-9000 (Vietnamese) $$
Yui Hai Ko Zing 22532 Foothill Blvd., Hayward, 510-886-8503 (Chinese/Korean) $

LAMORINDA

Bo's Barbecue 3422 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-7133 (Barbecue/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Casa Orinda 20 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-254-2981 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$
Chow Lafayette 53 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette, 925-962-2469 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
El Jarro Mexican Grill 3551 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-283-6630 (Mexican) $-$$
La Finestra Ristorante 100 Lafayette Circle, Suite O, Lafayette, 925-284-5202 (Italian) $$-$$$
Hsiang's Restaurant 1 Bryant Way, Orinda, 925-253-9852 (Chinese) $
Rosa Justice 3600 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-0500 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$
Postino 3565 Mount Diablo Blvd., Lafayette, 925-299-8700 (California Cuisine/Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Monte Mia Oakland 1162 Moraga St., Moraga, 925-376-5127 (American) $-$$
Yoo 3531 Plaza Way, Lafayette, 925-284-3500 (Gallery/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

OAKLAND-DOWNTOWN & JACK LONDON SQ.

B 499 9th St., Oakland, 510-251-8770 (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Bigmouth 578 14th St., Oakland, 510-... 2753 (Organic/Sustainable/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
Battambang Restaurant 850 Broadway, Oakland, 510-839-8815 (Cambodian/Laotian/Seafood/Southeast Asian/Vegetarian/Vegan) $-$$
Binh Minh Oakland 388 12th St., Oakland, 510-893-3136 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$$
Breads of India 948 Clay St., Oakland, 510-834-7684 (Indian/Pakistani) $-$$
Caffe 817 817 Washington St., Oakland, 510-271-7965 (Café/Coffeehouse/Italian Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
Cafe Mezzini 1111 Broadway, Lobby level of Building, Oakland, 510-463-9300 (California Cuisine/Italian) $$-$$$
Cam Huong Deli 920 Webster St., Oakland, 510-444-8800 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Chef Lau's 301 8th St., Oakland, 510-835-3288 (Chinese/Seafood) $
La Vien 1007 Clay St., Oakland, 510-788-6486 (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $$-$$$
Chop Bar 247 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-834-2467 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$
Cock-A-Doodle Cafe 719 Washington St., Oakland, 510-465-5400 (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Cafe/Coffeehouse/California Cuisine/Nuevo Latino/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
DBA Cafe 337 Eighth St., Oakland, 510-839-4223 (Chinese) $
Encuentro 202 2nd St., Oakland, 510-832-6433 (Wine Bar/Tapas/Small Plates/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 126 Broadway, Oakland, 510-663-2350 (Barbecue) $$
Oasa 3980 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-289-1100 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
La Roma Oakland 318 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4290 (Peruvian/South American) $$$
Golden Lotus Vegetarian Restaurant 1301 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-893-0383 (Chinese/Southeast Asian/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan/Vietnamese) $
Gum Kuo 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-268-1288 (Chinese) $
Oakland 1765 San Pablo Ave., Oakland, 510-445-2626 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable) $$
Home of Chicken & Waffles 444 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-836-4446 (American/Southern/Soul Food) $
Hana 412 15th St., Oakland, 510-452-2994 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$
[illegible] 425 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-536-4825 (Caribbean/Organic/Sustainable/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Las Pam 2437 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-637-3080 (Mexican) $$
Legendary Palace 708 Franklin St., Oakland, 510-663-9188 (Chinese) $-$$
Ume 411 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-836-4343 (Eclectic/Exotic/Tapas/Small Plates/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland, 510-451-4677 (Belgian/California Cuisine/French/Bar) $$-$$$
Miss Pearl's Jam House One Broadway, Oakland, 510-444-7171 (Caribbean) $$$
[illegible] Restaurant & Wine Bar 247 Fourth St., Oakland, 510-834-2000 (California

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WINEAU

Rosé, Whatever the Weather

Think pink to break through the marine layer

I had been waiting for a bright, sunshiny day to taste the three rosés bought from **The Wine Mine** in Oakland's Temescal neighborhood. But what is it with this summer? The fog and cold never cease. So we decided to put the wine to the true test: Do these rosés go well with our now infamous marine layer? To find out, we crossed the bridge with friends Kenny and Mike for a barbecue at my brother's house in San Francisco. The fog there was dense and chilly, worse than Oakland.

All three of these rosés, with their peony pink transparency, are redolent of mid-morning Monaco. Making their casual charm even easier, they are all twist-tops. But will this evening's weather render them more ho-hum than *ooh la la*?

First of the three was **Chateau de Campuget 2009** ($9.50) from France's **Costieres de Nimes**. It is composed of 70 percent Syrah and 30 percent Grenache and is made by a family in a small Rouen town. Mike found it "salmony" in color, with a taste and smell of strawberries. I could smell something peachy. Kenny joked that he hasn't been able to smell anything since the Eighties. But he did find it to have a clean up-front taste, making it very drinkable. Historically in Europe, rosés were always a delicate dry wine. After World War II, there was a fashion for sweeter ones, but now the pendulum has swung toward a drier, bigger style. In France, rosés have even exceeded white wines in sales.

The second was the **Casal Garcia Vinho Verde** from Portugal ($7). Like the rest of us, Mike noticed "bubbles in the background." It felt like an invigorating spritz. My brother Tony said it was "sharper, with a bit of a bite."

"You don't need food with this one; you could sit on the patio and suck it down," said Kenny. "Or sip it!" we chorused, keeping it seemly.

The third was the **Mulderbosch Cab Sav Rosé 2009** ($8.50) from the Coastal region of South Africa. For a "new world" wine, this has not a little history. The winery dates back to 1692, and the family who took it over twenty years ago were pressing grapes in Yugoslavia for 300 years. The family is apparently dedicated to preserving the pristine vineyard through holistic farming. Kenny pronounced it "forward fruit" and "a bit more up on the upper roof of the mouth and lips," but without much finish. Its complexity suits it best to summer food, he said. The rest of us collapsed into gales of laughter at his fancifulness. We had had our ooh la la moment.

After a barbecue dinner, Kenny returned to the tasting table for one final glass of rosé. I joined him, declaring with that particular kind of wisdom acquired on a wine-tasting evening: "The true test of a rosé is if you want to still drink it at the end of a long, dark, cold night."

—Judy Bronkelly

jbronkelly@gmail.com

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Cuisine) $$$
Nellie's 1153 3rd St., Oakland, 510-835-1750. (Southern/Soul Food) $$
Oak Plaza Bar & Grill 05 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Oakland, 510-268-1730. (California Cuisine/Organic/Restaurant) $$
Oyster Reef 1000 Embarcadero Ave., Oakland, 510-835-2815. (Seafood) $$$
Ozumo Oakland 2251 Broadway Ave., Oakland. (Asian Fusion/Japanese/Sushi/Tapas/Small Plates) $$-$$$$
Rang Dong 724 Webster St., Oakland, 510-835-8338. (Vietnamese) $
Restaurant Peony 388 Ninth St., Oakland, 510-286-8866. (Chinese) $$$
Rise n Dine 400 14th St., Oakland, 510-444-8474. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/Diner/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
San Francisco Soup Company 1300 Clay St., Oakland, 510-763-7687. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Shanghai Restaurant 930 Webster St., Oakland, 510-465-6878. (Chinese) $-$$
Shashamane 2501 Broadway, Oakland, 510-858-4388. (Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$
Soizic 300 Broadway, Oakland, 510-251-8100. (California Cuisine) $$$
Souley Vegan 301 Broadway, Oakland, 510-922-1615. (Southern/Soul Food/Vegetarian/Vegan) $$
Spice Monkey 1628 Webster St., Oakland, 510-268-7061. (California Cuisine) $$
Sun Hong Kong 389 8th St., Oakland, 510-836-1413. (Chinese) $
Tamarindo Antojeria Mexicana 468 8th St., Oakland, 510-444-1944. (Mexican/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
Tay Ho 344 12th St., Oakland, 510-836-8388. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Tee Ang 493 14th St., Suite 12, Oakland, 510-625-9950. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Restaurant) $
Uncle Willie's Bar-B-Que and Fish 614 14th St., Oakland, 510-465-9200. (Barbecue) $-$$
Vi's Restaurant 59 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-465-4600. (Vietnamese) $$
Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200. (Japanese/Sushi/Bars/Music Venues) $$$
Yung Kee Restaurant 888 Webster St., Oakland, 510-839-2010. (Chinese) $

OAKLAND-EAST

Bo Lo 1500 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8865. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Binh Nhung Restaurant 789 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-444-2588. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Arandas Restaurant 2731 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-534-4780. (Mexican) $
Champa Garden 2102 8th Ave., Oakland, 510-238-8819. (Cambodian/Laotian/Malaysian/Asian/Thai/Burmese) $
Los Cocos 1440 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-536-3079. (Central American/Salvadoran) $
El Restaurant 4000 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-261-8880. (Mexican) $-$$
Everett & Jones Barbeque 2676 Fruitvale Ave., Oakland, 510-533-0900. (Barbecue) $
Full House Cafe 3710 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland, 510-482-2669. (American/Diner) $
El Huarache Azteca 3842 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-2381. (Mexican) $
Huong Que Cafe 1228 7th Ave., Oakland, 510-535-8468. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
La Estrellita Cafe 446 East 12th St., Oakland, 510-465-1188. (American/Mexican/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $$
Mariscos La Costa 3625 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-8585. (Mexican) $
New Pagolac 651 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-465-9936. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$
Nieves Cinco de Mayo 3340 E. 12th St., Oakland, 510-533-6298. (Dessert/Ice Cream) $
Otaez Mexicatessen 3872 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-0808. (Mexican) $-$$
Pho Hoa Hiep 2014 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-0198. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $-$$
Pho Hoa Lac 720 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-434-0802. (Southeast Asian/Vietnamese) $
Pupuseria La Palma 3340 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-436-3656. (Central American) $
Tacos El Sol Corner of International Blvd. and High St., Oakland, no phone. (Mexican) $
Tanjia 2373 Oakland Ave., Oakland, 510-922-9157. (African/Moroccan/Spanish) $$$
Taqueria Guadalajara 3650 Fruitvale Blvd., Oakland, 510-271-4000. (Mexican) $
Taqueria Durango 3829 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-536-6485. (Barbecue/Mexican) $
Taqueria San Jose 3433 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-533-5348. (Mexican) $
Taqueria Sinaloa 2138 International Blvd., Oakland, 510-535-1206. (Mexican) $
Ted Sam's 300 79th Ave., Oakland, 510-532-8992. (Hawaiian) $
La Torta Loca 3419 Foothill Blvd., Oakland, 510-532-1105. (Mexican) $

OAKLAND PIEDMONT, GRAND LAKE & EAST

[illegible] 4385 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-601-6305. (Italian/Burgers/Sandwiches/Wine Bar) $$$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Saturday Grand Lake Farmers' Market, Oakland, (415) 812-6100. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 4162 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-7180. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Bay Wolf Cafe and Restaurant 3853 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6004. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Bellanico 4238 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1180. (Italian/Breakfast/Brunch/Organic/Sustainable/Wine Bar) $-$$
Blackberry Bistro 4240 Park Blvd., Oakland, 510-336-1088. (Breakfast/Brunch/Southern/Soul Food) $-$$
Soul Latino 4239 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1200. (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$
Boca Sushi 337 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-834-7866. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Centered 4059 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3902. (California Cuisine/Eclectic/Exotic/Organic/Restaurant) $$$
El Bosque 5308 Broadway Ave., Oakland, 510-... (California Cuisine) $$$-$$$$
Dopo 4293 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-3676. (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$
Hamano Sushi 3264 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-645-1912. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Grégoire 4001 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-547-3444. (French) $$
Giovanni Restaurant Sandwiches 2800 Shattuck Ct., Oakland, 510-... (American) $
Holy Land 677 Rand Ave., Oakland, 510-272-0535. (Kosher/Halal/Middle Eastern) $
LoCoco's Restaurant 4270 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-652-8522. (Italian/Pizza) $$
Oakland Ethiopian Restaurant 4300 Piedmont Ave., Oakland, 510-420-1422. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $
[illegible] 3401 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-893-2500. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$$
Nippon Sushi 3250 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-... (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Palmer Spot Bar & Grill 3407 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-268-1840. (Steak Houses) $$$
Sidebar 542 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-452-9500. (American) $$-$$$
Spettro 3355 Lakeshore Ave., Oakland, 510-451-7738. (California Cuisine/Pizza) $$
Zza's Trattoria 552 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-839-9124. (Italian/Pizza) $$

OAKLAND-ROCKRIDGE

À Côté 5478 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6469. (California Cuisine/French/Italian/Mediterranean/Organic/Sustainable/Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
Barney's Gourmet Hamburgers 5819 College Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0444. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches) $
Cactus Taqueria 5642 College Ave., Oakland, 510-658-6180. (Mexican/Organic/Sustainable) $
Citron 5484 College Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5484. (Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine/French) $$$-$$$$
Garibaldi's 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-4000. (California Cuisine/Tapas/Small Plates) $$$
[illegible] 5843 College Ave., Oakland, 510-... (Italian/Middle Eastern) $$$
Lake Anza Wildcat Canyon and Tilden Park Roads, Berkeley, 510-327-2757. (Burgers/Sandwiches/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Deli/Dessert/Ice Cream) $
Manzanita 4001 Linden St., Oakland, 510-985-8386. (Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Marica 5301 College Ave., Oakland, 510-985-8388. (Asian Fusion/Seafood) $$-$$$
Marcuso on College 5356 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-6958. (Italian) $$$
Oakwood 3201 College Ave., Berkeley, 510-652-... (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$
Kim Hong 5... College Ave., Oakland, 510-855-3238. (Southeast Asian) $$
Studio 5422 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-... (Italian/Pizza) $-$$
Sabai Bangkok Kitchen 5421 College Ave., Oakland, 510-595-... (Southeast Asian/Thai/Korean) $$
[illegible] 5612 College Ave., Oakland, 510-428-0922. (American/Breakfast/Brunch/California Cuisine) $$
Top Dog 5100 Broadway, Oakland, 510-601-7387. (American/Burgers/Sandwiches/Organic/Sustainable) $
Wood Tavern 6317 College Ave., Oakland, 510-654-6607. (California Cuisine) $$-$$$
Zachary's Chicago Pizza 5801 College Ave., Oakland, 510-655-6385. (Pizza) $-$$

OAKLAND-TEMESCAL

Addis Ethiopian Restaurant 6100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3456. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean) $$
Andy and Cindy's Thai Cuisine Sunday Temescal Farmers Market, Oakland, (415) 812-6100. (Organic/Sustainable/Thai/Burmese/Vegetarian/Vegan) $
Bakesale Betty 5098 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-985-1213. (Bakery/Cafe/Coffeehouse) $-$$
Barlata 4901 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0678. (Spanish/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$$
Burma Superstar 4721 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2900. (Southeast Asian) $$
Cafe Colucci 6427 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-7999. (African/Ethiopian/Eritrean/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$
[illegible] 2115 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5921. (Korean) $$
Doña Tomás 5004 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-450-0522. (Mexican) $$$
Genova Delicatessen and Ravioli 5095 Telegraph Ave., Building A, Oakland, 510-652-7401. (Deli/Italian) $
Kang Tong Dugi 3100 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-658-2938. (Korean) $$
Koryo Sushi 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-594-0803. (Japanese/Sushi) $$
Koryo Oakland Charcoal Barbecue 4390 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-8081. (Korean) $$
La Calaca Loca 5199 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-601-0225. (Mexican) $
Lanesplitter Pizza and Pub 4799 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-5350. (Pizza/Art Galleries) $
Marc 49 4915 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-2180. (Wine Bar) $-$$
[illegible] 4920 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-... (California Cuisine) $$
Nomad Cafe 6500 Shattuck Ave., Oakland, 510-595-5344. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Cafe/Coffeehouse/Music Venues) $
Ohgane Korean Restaurant 3915 Broadway, Oakland, 510-594-8300. (Korean) $$-$$$
Oakland B.B.Q. 6321 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-595-6208. (Korean) $-$$
Pizzaiolo 5008 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-652-4888. (California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Pizza) $$-$$$
Sahn Maru 4315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-653-3366. (Korean) $-$$
Seoul Gom Tang 3801 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-597-0989. (Korean) $
[illegible] 5179 ... Ave., Oakland, 510-658-5300. (American/California Cuisine/Southern/Soul Food) $$$
Yet Nal Zo Fong 4390 Telegraph Ave., Suite B, Oakland, 510-652-3890. (Chinese/Korean) $
Yang Zo Fong 2315 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-... (Chinese/Korean) $

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R&C

[illegible] Room & Brew 11930 Main St., Sunol. 925-862-0821. (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

Bistro [illegible] 2435 San Ramon Blvd., Suite 540, San Ramon. 925-314-0974. (California Cuisine) $$$

Las Cazuelas 7030 [illegible] St., Livermore. 925-410-1451 (Mexican) $

Lindsay and Goodridge's Bistro 211 Rose Ave., Pleasanton. 925-462-7000. (French) $$$-$$$$

Lunas Cafe 610 Main St., Pleasanton. 925-846-4222 (American/Breakfast/Brunch) $-$$

Forbes Mill Steakhouse 200 Sycamore Valley Rd. West, Danville. 925-552-0505. (Steak House) $$$$

Hap's Original 122 W. Neal St., Pleasanton. 925-600-9200 (American/Steak House) $$-$$$

[illegible] Grill 1960 [illegible] Pl., San Ramon. 925-830-1868 (Hawaiian) $

[illegible] 101 Town & Country Dr. Suite G, Danville. 925-832-0328. (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 4825 Hopyard Rd. Suite F2, Pleasanton. 925-461-2330 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] 225-B Alamo Plaza, Alamo. 925-838-0586 (Barbecue/Deli) $

[illegible] Indian Cuisine 465 San Ramon Valley Blvd., Danville. 925-362-4900 (Indian/Pakistani) $$

[illegible] Steak & Chop House 7400 San Ramon Rd., Dublin. 925-833-0995 (American/Seafood/Steak House) $$$

[illegible] Restaurant 20 Boardwalk, San Ramon. 925-837-9387 (California Cuisine) $$$

The Patio 9?6 Moraga Rd., Lafayette. 925-299-6565 (South American/Tapas/Small Plates) $$

Patrick David's Restaurant 416 Sycamore Valley Rd. W., Danville. 925-838-7611 (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine) $$$$

The Peasant & the Pear 267 Hartz Ave., Danville. 925-820-6611 (California Cuisine) $$-$$$

Red Smoke Grill 4501 Hopyard Rd., Pleasanton. 925-734-0307 (American/Barbecue) $

[illegible] 4870 Dublin Blvd., Dublin. 925-828-8300 (American) $

Roderick's BBQ and Seafood 2300 First St., Livermore. 925-294-0640 (Barbecue/Seafood/Southern/Soul Food) $$

[illegible] 3151 Crow Canyon Pl. #C, San Ramon. 925-277-1628 (Japanese/Sushi) $$-$$$

Sergio's Ristorante 500 Bollinger Canyon Way, San Ramon. 925-806-1088. (Italian) $$-$$$

[illegible] 21314 San Ramon Valley Blvd., San Ramon. 925-889-5568. (Middle Eastern/Persian) $$

[illegible] 250 Market Pl., San Ramon. 925-328-0511 (Mexican) $

[illegible] Bistro 115 Alamo Plaza, Alamo. 925-855-9000 (California Cuisine/Eastern European) $$

[illegible] 3498 Blackhawk Plaza Circle, Danville. 925-964-1875 (Japanese/Sushi) $-$$$

Zachary's Chicago Pizza 3110 Crow Canyon Pl., Suite D, San Ramon. 925-244-1222. (Pizza) $-$$

WALNUT CREEK

[illegible] Grill & Restaurant 1175 [illegible] Ave., Walnut Creek. 925-200-0729 (Eastern European) $$

Bing Crosby's 1342 Broadway Plaza, Walnut Creek. 925-939-2464 (American/Steak House) $$$$

Le Bistro 1806 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-407-0078 (French/Organic/Sustainable) $$$

[illegible] of India 1358 N. Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-7684 (Indian/Pakistani/Organic/Sustainable) $-$$

Dragon 2000 1550 [illegible] Dr., Walnut Creek. 925-287-3388. (Chinese) $-$$

[illegible] 1516 Bonanza St., Walnut Creek. 925-939-4555 (California Cuisine/Cuban/Nuevo Latino) $$

[illegible] 1830 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-932-9393 (Barbecue/Deli) $

Lark Creek Walnut Creek 1360 Locust St., Walnut Creek. 925-256-1234 (American/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable) $$-$$$

[illegible] 1239 Boulevard Way, Walnut Creek. 925-939-2828 (Deli/Italian) $

The Original Hick'ry Pit 1485 South Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-930-7450. (Breakfast/Brunch/Diner) $$

Prima 1522 North Main St., Walnut Creek. 925-935-7780 (Italian/Organic/Sustainable) $$$-$$$$

Rocco's Ristorante & Pizzeria 2909 Ygnacio Valley Rd., Walnut Creek. 925-947-6105 (Italian, Pizza) $-$$

Va de Vi Bistro & Wine Bar 1511 Mount Diablo Blvd., Walnut Creek. 925-979-0100. (Asian Fusion/California Cuisine/Organic/Sustainable/Tapas/Small Plates/Wine Bar) $$-$$$

Vic Stewart's 850 South Broadway, Walnut Creek. 925-943-5666. (Steak House) $$$-$$$$

FOOD & WINE

FARMERS' MARKETS

Alameda Farmers' Market With locally grown fruits and vegetables, plus family activities. For info: visit PCFMA.com. Tuesdays, 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Webster St. (at Haight Ave.), Webster St., Alameda.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Fresh produce supplied by local organic and specialty farmers. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. free. Bayfair Center, 15555 E. 14th St., San Leandro. 510-357-0000. ShopBayfair.com.

[illegible] With organic produce, sustainable products, a food court, and performances by local bands. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Berkeley Adult School, 1701 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley.

Farm Fresh Choice Community Produce Stands Farm Fresh Choice runs vendors' stands in culturally diverse, limited-resource neighborhoods. Wednesdays, 3-6:30 p.m. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. [illegible] Community Center, San Pablo Park, 2800 Park St., Berkeley. 510-981-6250. Ci.berkeley.ca.us/[illegible]

Grand Lake Farmers' Market Saturdays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Splash Pad Park, Grand Ave. and Lakeshore, Oakland. 510-238-7275. OaklandNet.com/Parks/Parks/[illegible]

Growing Youth Project Peasant Farm Stand Fresh organic veggies and eggs from the Growing Youth Project, a nonprofit that provides [illegible] education to Alameda residents. Fridays, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Continues through Oct. 1. Ploughshares Nursery, 2701 Main St., Alameda. 510-755-1502. PloughsharesNursery.com.

Hayward Public Library Book Sale and Farmers' Market Call 510-881-7980 for [illegible]. Fourth Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Second Saturday of every month, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. Continues through Dec. 1. free. Hayward City Hall Plaza, 777 B St., Hayward. 510-583-4200. www.ci.hayward.ca.us/[illegible]

Kaiser Permanente Hayward Farmers' Market With vendors selling locally-grown California produce at the main entrance to the hospital. Wednesdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., free. Kaiser Hayward, 27400 Hesperian Blvd., Hayward.

Kaiser Permanente Oakland Farmers' Market With vendors selling fresh organic fruits and vegetables. Fridays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Kaiser Oakland, 3801 Howe St., Oakland.

Kensington Farmers' Market With fresh flowers, an organic cheesemaker, bee products, fresh wild fish, fruits and vegetables, nuts, butters, [illegible], fresh pasta, and seasonal surprises. Sundays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. free. [illegible] at the Colusa Circle, Kensington.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Sponsored and maintained by Oakland Food Connection. With certified organic produce from [illegible] Farms, and a youth-led prepared food booth called the People Love Cafe. For more info [illegible]. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. [illegible] Oakland.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Vendors, eggs, flowers and more, with an emphasis on small farmers and farmers of color. With live music and free public-interest workshops each week. Saturdays, 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Continues through Dec. 26. North Oakland [illegible], 5715 [illegible] St., Oakland.

North Berkeley Farmers' Market [illegible] specialty foods, all-organic produce, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Thursdays, 3-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Shattuck Ave. at Rose St., Berkeley.

Pacific Coast Jack London Square Farmers' Market Seasonal produce, greens, nuts, freshly baked bread, pastries, cut flowers, specialty foods, yoga classes, live music, and arts and crafts for kids. Sundays, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. free. Jack London Square, 55 Broadway Ave., Oakland.

[illegible] Farmers' Market Vendors. 4-8 p.m. Continues through Oct. 27. free. Park Pl. (at Washington Ave.), Richmond.

Richmond Certified Farmers' Market Vendors sell seasonal produce, eggs, crafts, and flowers. Fridays, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. [illegible] 24th St. & [illegible] Ave., Richmond.

Richmond Farmer's Market Fresh, locally grown fruit, flowers, eggs, and dried products. Fridays, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. free. Richmond Farmers' Market, 24th St. & [illegible] Ave., Richmond.

Saturday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, flowers, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Saturdays, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. MLK Civic Center Park, 2151 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Berkeley. 510-981-8150. Ci.Berkeley.Ca.Us/ContentDisplay.aspx?id=12700.

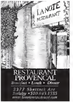
Temescal Farmers' Market California vendors farmers offer pesticide-free produce, dried fruits and nuts, fresh ranch eggs, baked goods, locally caught fish, fresh-cut flowers, and more. Info: 510-745-7100. Sundays, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. free. DMV Parking Lot, 5300 Claremont Ave., Oakland.

Tuesday Berkeley Farmers' Market Fresh and organic produce, flowers, specialty foods, and more for sale, plus special programs and events. Tuesdays, 2-7 p.m. free. 510-548-3333. EcologyCenter.org. Derby St. (at Martin Luther King Jr. Way), Berkeley.

PICK

Farm to Fork Tour

After brunch at **Gather Restaurant** (2200 Oxford St., Berkeley), the all-day **Farm to Fork Tour** on Sunday, Aug. 15 includes visits to **Knoll** and **Frog Hollow** farms for a crash course on where food comes from and how it looks, feels, and tastes in its natural state. Participants can pick fresh fruit straight off trees and talk to farmers committed to sustainability. 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. $85 (tickets must be bought in advance online). BayAreaGreenTours.org. — *Anneli Rufus*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Local Food View:
Add a little variety to your salad!

Ever get tired of lettuce? Does your salad need to be spruced up? Well, all sorts of wonderful and tasty greens are available now at your local farmers market. There's a wide world out there of unique greens that add new flavor and nutrition to any salad. Keep your eyes open the next time you're shopping for any of these:

Arugula: This green is very strong and spicy, so it's good to mix in with milder greens.
Bok Choy: Also known as Chinese Cabbage, bok choy has a light and slightly sweet flavor.
Endive: This bitter green from the chicory family is very high in nutrients and fiber. There are many varieties of endive to try! Belgian or French endive is the small, pale "forced" variety, while delicious frisée has branching, curly leaves, and broad-leafed escarole looks much like lettuce and has a milder flavor.
Horseradish Greens: Watch out. These are spicy and have quite a bite.
Radicchio: Also a type of chicory, this striking variety has vibrant red leaves veined in white. It has a crisp, bitter, slightly nutty flavor and is best paired with other greens.

Here's to never eating another bland salad!
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WRETCHED OF THE EARTH

What do a pair of poor farmers in India (*Peepli Live*) have in common with a young geek in Toronto (*Scott Pilgrim vs. the World*)? How much time have you got?

By Kelly Vance

Peepli Live

One quick look at the establishing shots tells us immediately: This is poor land, dry and barren, with barely enough vegetation to graze a goat. So when the camera comes to rest on the figures of Natha (played by non-actor **Omkar Das**) and his brother Budhia (**Bollywood** veteran **Raghuvir Yadav**), a pair of farmers walking down the road with worried looks on their faces, we're not surprised to find them just as distressed as the landscape.

And yet **Anusha Rizvi** and **Mahmood Farooqui**'s ***Peepli Live*** has more on its mind than just the travails of Natha and Budhia, picturesque as they might be. Rizvi and Farooqui's sly neo-village picture, written by Rizvi and produced by actor-turned-filmmaker **Aamir Khan** with **Kiran Rao** for **Aamir Khan Productions**, certainly identifies with the cash-strapped farmers of India's **Madhya Pradesh** state, but sets its satiric sights on larger game higher up the food chain in 21st-century India's consumer society. The further we look up the caste-and-class ladder, the slicker and more ironic the satire.

Like everyone else in the quiet village of Peepli, Natha and Budhia are flat broke. Their fields are producing mostly dust (maybe it's because the men are content to smoke weed while the women do the field work), they've borrowed money from everyone they know, and now in desperation, the brothers are seriously mulling over a government program that pays a compensation of 100,000 rupees to the families of debt-ridden farmers who commit suicide. If we commit suicide, our money worries end. Suddenly self sacrifice seems a serviceable option.

It makes no sense for both brothers to do themselves in, so after a bit of nudging, it is decided that Natha, the sad-faced one, will do the deed and Budhia will collect the bounty. Natha's decision may be helped along by a desire to escape his violent, harpy-like wife, who loses no opportunity to upbraid her forlorn husband over his failures.

As a last-ditch gesture, the brothers pay a visit to the village chief Bhai Thakur (**Sitaram Panchal** from ***Slumdog Millionaire***) to seek relief, but their supplications only meet with ridicule — while his toadies look on derisively, the ogre-like Thakur tells Natha to go ahead and kill himself. Are village officials in rural India really so high-handed, and are their local police really in the habit of beating lower-caste constituents for daring to address them? Be that as it may, the filmmakers present all this as a given, the comic foreground in a wry critique of the "new era, prosperous India," where, according to the dialogue, 70 percent of the population works on farms. Natha and Budhia slink back to their homes and prepare to carry on with the "arranged suicide." Even Natha's kids can't wait for him to die — they've already begun spending the anticipated drop-dead money. All seems lost.

And then the national media get hold of the story. Newspapers and TV news anchors outdo themselves to milk the brothers' pathetic story. An imperious female broadcast reporter arrives in Peepli amid a convoy of SUVs, and politicians (including one played by veteran actor **Naseeruddin Shah**) jockey for position. The leader of the Backward Castes Party drops in to see Natha and awards him a TV. Among other useless gifts is a bright green hand pump for the well that Natha doesn't have. Reporters storm the village, looking for angles. They're all waiting for Natha to die. America is blamed, and even Natha's shit is analyzed on camera for the evening news. Only a television production assistant named Rakesh (actor **Nowaz**) sees through the farce and recognizes that all the farmers are hurting and that no one wants to talk seriously about it.

It's easier for Natha to simply disappear than for the power structure to try to deal with a situation in which, according to the film, 182,000 farmers committed suicide between 1997 and 2007. *Peepli Live* takes a deep look at an everyday tragedy and provides the humorous dimension that underscores the pathos. Who says Bollywood is only interested in lightweight romantic musicals?

Peepli Live

Directed by Anusha Rizvi and Mahmood Farooqui. With Omkar Das and Raghuvir Yadav. Opens Friday.

Scott Pilgrim vs the World

Directed by Edgar Wright. With Michael Cera and Mary Elizabeth Winstead. Opens Friday.

It isn't just that **Michael Cera** plays young — he's 22 but looks sixteen. His face has a pallid, just-manufactured, unstamped appearance. In the words of screenwriter **Daniel Mainwaring** describing a "pod person" in ***Invasion of the Body Snatchers***: "It has all the features but no details, no character, no lines." It's easy to label Cera's look "innocent" because that's how he has typically been cast in ***Superbad***, ***Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist***, ***Youth in Revolt***, and especially ***Juno***: he played basically the same type: the callow youth with a mild manner who gets the girl because he's pure of heart.

In **Edgar Wright**'s ***Scott Pilgrim vs. the World***, Cera is more of a mooncalf than usual. His character Scott, a 22-year-old Torontonian who plays bass in a garage band called Sex Bob-Omb, shares an apartment with a gay roommate named Wallace (**Kieran Culkin**) and dates a seventeen-year-old named Knives Chau (**Ellen Wong**), although the girl he really desires is Ramona Flowers (**Mary Elizabeth Winstead**), a cool and stylish number who seems light years older than Scott. To win her, he needs to duel her ex-boyfriends in fantasy sequences based on video games. Oh, great.

That feathery, tee-hee scenario (adapted by director Wright with **Michael Bacall** from graphic novels by **Bryan Lee O'Malley**) doesn't hold much interest, but the movie functions quite nicely as a career-progress chart for its would-be post-juvie actors. Cera needs to branch out a bit — maybe play someone truly loathsome, like a Wall Street investment banker. We worry more about 27-year-old Culkin: With his weary, boyish expression, he seems doomed to portray eccentric roommates forever. Ditto **Jason Schwartzman** (a whopping thirty years old), a bit out of place as Ramona's most formidable ex. The entire male side of the cast seems a bit stale, in fact. Better to zoom in on **Allison Pill** as Kim, the band's red-haired drummer, and Ms. Winstead, the latest **Ellen Page**/**Portia Doubleday**/**Kat Dennings** in Cera's repertoire of tantalizingly unattainable (until the last reel) females. How will he ever grow up enough to catch up with the likes of them? ●

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MOVIES & THEATERS

To learn where a movie is playing, note the abbreviations at the end of each listing, then consult the theater guide at the bottom of this page. Capsule reviews are written by Andrea Gronvall (A.G.), Cole Haddon (C.H.), J.R. Jones (J.J.), and Kelly Vance (K.V.). For a schedule of repertory films, see One-Night Stands at the end of these listings. Please send info fourteen days before event date to [illegible]

OPENING

Eat Pray Love [illegible] (PG-13) AFC, BC, BP, CNC, CH, ECPH, CH, CUC, CAPH, CN, DH, DC, DL, BCC, RCE

The Expendables [illegible] Sylvester [illegible] Bruce Willis and Arnold Schwarzenegger [illegible]

[illegible] DC, DL, MWE

The Extra Man [illegible] (108 min.) (A.G.) (RCE)

Patrik, Age 1.5 (Patrik 1,5) Agreeable but formulaic "gay family" sitcom from Sweden [illegible]

Peepli Live [illegible] Madhya Pradesh [illegible] Co-directors Anusha Rizvi and [illegible]

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Theater Guide

This guide explains the abbreviations at the end of each capsule: **AL** = Landmark Albany; **AFC** = Alameda Theatre & Cineplex; [illegible] **UA8** = UA Berkeley; **UAES** = UA Emery Bay; **V** = Vine; **WRS** = West Wind Solano? [illegible] comedies. [illegible] Rauf's screenplay [illegible] fight but [illegible] that [illegible] might have [illegible]. Starring [illegible] left off. With [illegible] and Raghuvir Yadav as Natha and Budhia. (105 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World [illegible] the [illegible] comedy's [illegible] like a retro game [illegible] but for everyone else it's more of an [illegible] showcase for [illegible] Michael Cera, Mary Elizabeth Winstead, and [illegible]. [illegible] garage-band bassist [illegible] (Cera) [illegible] girl (Winstead) [illegible] "seven deadly exes" while [illegible]. Maybe it's time Cera [illegible]. Edgar Wright directs from a screenplay he wrote with Michael Bacall, adapted from Bryan Lee O'Malley's graphic novels (112 min.) (KV) [illegible]

[illegible] Joel Schumacher [illegible] the life in a [illegible]. Starring Chace Crawford. [illegible]

[illegible] Suck Jason Friedberg and Aaron Seltzer [illegible] the Twilight-inspired vampire spoof. Starring Ken Jeong. [illegible]

ONGOING

Agora [illegible] comedies and philosophical [illegible]. This sprawling, [illegible] English-language [illegible] by Chilean [illegible] Alejandro Amenábar [illegible] us to the city of Alexandria, Egypt in the 3rd century CE, where the newly emergent Christians are [illegible] the [illegible] of the Jewish [illegible], as well as against the [illegible] teachings of the [illegible]. Despite the [illegible] of the Christian [illegible], there's a [illegible] lack of [illegible], [illegible] because the beautiful Hypatia takes as [illegible] Max Minghella, who [illegible] her studies while [illegible] are busy slaughtering unbelievers. Think of it as a [illegible] of [illegible] Intolerance, with the black-shirted Christian warriors as the villains. Written by Amenábar (The Sea Inside) and Mateo Gil and costarring Sami Samir as Cyril, the chief Christian agitator (121 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Cats & Dogs: the Revenge of Kitty Galore Brad Peyton directs [illegible] sequel to the furry spy series. Voice talents on display include [illegible] Midler, Nick Nolte, & Christina Applegate. [illegible]

Charlie St. Cloud Charlie (played by Zac Efron) is a [illegible] and designer, but he spends his time tending the [illegible] where he plays [illegible] with his deceased younger [illegible] Sam [illegible]. [illegible] that the [illegible] Charlie [illegible] and then the story [illegible] personal [illegible]. The [illegible] Ben Sherwood's [illegible] The [illegible] supporting cast of [illegible] Ligon, Amanda Crew, Kim Basinger, and Ray Liotta mostly goes to waste. Charlie as if it were a [illegible] video by [illegible], from a screenplay [illegible] by Craig Pearce and Lewis Colick (99 min.) [illegible] University of California, Berkeley

The Concert (Le concert) Andrei Filipov [illegible] by Aleksei Guskov [illegible] comedy as [illegible] conductor [illegible] Jewish musicians, as "enemies of the [illegible]" and [illegible] Radu Mihaileanu's good-natured comedy. Filipov gets his [illegible] for [illegible] to Paris with his band of [illegible] as the "Bolshoi." It's not often we get to see a [illegible] farce. This lightweight [illegible] fills the bill, even though [illegible] Romanian and the film is a French-Russian [illegible]. Keep your eye on the [illegible] Russian Laurent, François Berléand, and Miou-Miou (119 min.) (KV)

Cyrus The Baghdad [illegible], writing-directing brothers Jay and Mark Duplass, try their [illegible] at a bigger-budget, [illegible] relationship drama. And it flops. Harmless middle-aged guy John C. Reilly finally finds a woman he can relate to — single mother Marisa Tomei — but her jealous, possessive twentysomething son (Jonah Hill) [illegible] objects to the [illegible] and the passive-aggressive [illegible] begins. [illegible] their [illegible], and [illegible], but all this "romantic" [illegible] story to [illegible] And so [illegible] Reilly, Tomei, Catherine Keener [illegible] goes to waste (92 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Despicable Me [illegible] of what we're otherwise being spared, this superior computer-animated family comedy [illegible] references [illegible] comedy [illegible] in a 7/ts [illegible] hit. The [illegible] is family-friendly, [illegible], and everything [illegible] is wonderful, [illegible] the [illegible] and [illegible]. The main [illegible] Bond-style supervillain (Steve Carell, doing [illegible] Russian accent) who is [illegible] by a [illegible], newcomer (Jason Segel), as [illegible] the [illegible] gadget girls, and [illegible] kids' entertainment, the [illegible] Cinco [illegible] Kristen [illegible] (95 min.) [illegible]

Dinner for Schmucks [illegible] Steve Carell [illegible] the [illegible] big-studio comedy these days, and his [illegible] a long way toward [illegible] Carell [illegible] and F.A.L. [illegible] American [illegible] by [illegible] Jason Segel and [illegible] French farce The Dinner Game (1998) is a perfect [illegible] prolonged [illegible] and improvised [illegible] Paul Rudd [illegible] each guest is [illegible] tribute, [illegible] Carell [illegible] Jay [illegible] of the [illegible] with Zach Galifianakis. [illegible] and Lucy Punch (109 min.) [illegible]

Farewell (L'affaire Farewell) Christian Carion (Joyeux Noël) fashions an engrossing espionage thriller from a forgotten [illegible] episode of the Cold War: the 1980 spy case in which a Soviet intelligence officer leaked to the French government classified information on KGB activities in the West, ultimately [illegible] President Reagan [illegible] the "Star Wars" missile defense shield. In owner terms, Carion [illegible] on the uneasy friendship between the [illegible] agent (Emir Kusturica, the Serbian director [illegible] of Underground) and a French businessman in Moscow who [illegible] his courier (Guillaume Canet, the French [illegible] of Tell No One), and on the damage their subterfuge inflicted on their respective families. Punctuating this story line are [illegible], [illegible] Reagan (gamely played by Fred Ward) and French [illegible] Mitterrand (Philippe Magnan). Carion might have [illegible] a more artful way to dramatize the case's geopolitical impact, but one [illegible] interesting stuff. With [illegible] as a callous CIA officer and—yes, that's him—David Soul of Starsky and Hutch as a White House [illegible]. In English and [illegible] Russian and French (112 min.) (EJ) [illegible]

Get Him to the Greek [illegible] Russell Brand [illegible] Aldous Snow [illegible] from Apatow's Forgetting Sarah Marshall [illegible] Aldous is attempting to revive his career with a [illegible] Los Angeles' Greek Theater — and it's up to [illegible] Green (fellow [illegible] Jonah Hill), a [illegible] Aldous all the way from London to the gig, through a gauntlet of drugs, booze, and [illegible]. Hill, Colm [illegible] (as Kinnear [illegible]) [illegible] and P. Diddy Combs (Aaron's boss) [illegible] and [illegible] by [illegible] Nicholas Stoller (109 min.) (KV) [illegible]

Get Low Robert Duvall's performance as [illegible] the hermit [illegible] who wants to [illegible] his own funeral [illegible] his filmography [illegible] [illegible] as the [illegible] With Duvall in the lead [illegible] Aaron Schneider's agreeably folksy "Southern" [illegible] a [illegible], helped along by the fight comic [illegible] of Bill Murray, Lucas Black, Bill Cobbs, and Sissy Spacek as the [illegible] in Felix's [illegible]

Brooke Shields
Franco Zeffirelli's
Endless Love
4:00pm, Sunday
August 22, 2010
PFA Theater
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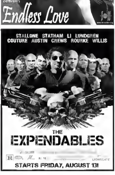
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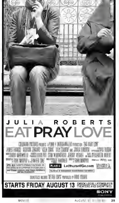
JULIA ROBERTS
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Shattuck

up beside *Jordan Mendes*, *Sing Blues*, and *The Apostle* in Duvall's remarkable scrapbook of countless fine incarnations, the gentle, tongue-in-cheek, sentimental atmosphere was written by Chris Provenzano and C. Gaby Mitchell from a story by Provenzano and Scott Seeke. (102 min.) (K.V.)(CAPH, AL, PM

The Girl Who Played With Fire (Flickan som lekte med elden) The further adventures of Sweden's avenging computer hacker/crime fighter Lisbeth Salander (Noomi Rapace) and Magnusson, sanctioned on Lisbeth's stressful past, as she and journalist Mikael Blomkvist (actor Michael Nyqvist) prepare to stop an international sex trafficker (Georgi Staykov) and his giant blond bodyguard (Micke Spreitz). Director Daniel Alfredson and screenwriter Jonas Frykberg, adapting the late Stieg Larsson's mega-popular series of novels, offer in plenty of action but mostly concentrate on Lisbeth's inner turmoil. This tough girl's pursuit saga takes place things her own terms. Also with Lena Endre and Yasmine Garbi. (129 min.) (K.V.)(CAPH, AL, PM

The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo (Män som hatar kvinnor) A Stockholm magazine journalist with a libel conviction hanging over him (Michael Nyqvist) joins forces with the sullen, sensitive, a rebellious, punkish computer hacker (Noomi Rapace) to investigate a forty-year-old missing person case involving a family of tightwing Swedish industrialists. Director Niels Arden Oplev takes his time setting up the inevitable between hacker Salander, Mikael (Nyqvist) and seething Lisbeth (Rapace), but once they get rolling and things get tense, the action is exciting and unnerving. In an entirely foreign way. The sumptuous, mysterious milieu of the reclusive Vanger family's Nazi past is intensive and interesting as the workings of Lisbeth's emotional state — she's a tiger taking picturesque revenge on the under. The slightly silly screenplay is by Nikolaj Arcel and Rasmus Heisterberg, from Stieg Larsson's novel. This was reportedly 2009's number one Republic hit in Europe under its original title, which translates as "Men Who Hate Women" (152 min., 2009, not rated). (K.V.)

Grown Ups Watching a bowlstall grow old is always sad, but in the case of Adam Sandler it's absurd. In the coasting vehicle from the lazy, every-ribbed Happy Madison Productions, the old jock Sandler, Chris Rock, Kevin James, David Spade, and the unavoidable Rob Schneider, reestablish their people at a lakeside retreat to rehearse the old plenty and people gags, work through their perfunctory character conflicts, and grow gourds at the sappy music cues. Age-inappropriate medium to constantly debauch Schneider's character is married to an old woman, and one of the children is still breast feeding at four, yet Sandler, who fourpaid the screenplay, gives a pass to its clique of middle-aged men viciously roasting each other like junior high students. Beneath all the forced hilarity lies an awful fear of aging—and Sandler is only 43! This is gonna be rough. Dennis Dugan directed, with Salma Hayek, Maria Bello, and Maya Rudolph. (102 min.) (J.J.)(IV CDC, BH, MAD)

Eat Pray Love

I Am Love (Io sono l'amore) Tilda Swinton shows emotion. The self-invented English actress as a certain reserve either to her and as the proper Russian-born matron of a family of rich industrialists in Milan, Italy, a part that calls for her to be sexy and imperious but also overwhelmed with emotion at the futility of it all. Well, two out of three ain't bad. Writer-director Luca Guadagnino's screenplay, concocted with help from three Italian writers, has a bit of a Michael Mann phases to it. The family's heart and food, Ingesting, and hotter are counterbalanced by profound strained and lingering performance. The blessed hotter Swinton, already a widely presumed case with it for miles, with able support by Flavio Parenti, Pippo Delbono, and Alba Rohrwacher. (120 min.) (K.V.)(K.V.)

Inception Mission Incomprehensible. Leonardo DiCaprio and his crew of pop-up dream thieves hit the subconscious retreat of their information while they sleep in order to steal corporate secrets. Or some such. Which gives writer-director Christopher Nolan an excuse to sling us lots of expensive props and a huge, largely wasted cast (Ellen Page, Joseph Gordon-Levitt, Michael Caine, Cillian Murphy), and to take the plot back on itself endlessly. But it boils down to an ordinary spy flick anyway, with laughable dialogue. When he first started out with *Memento*, Nolan's fans enthused about what he could do with a big

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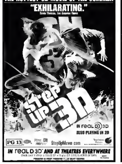
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Kevin Thomas, Los Angeles Times

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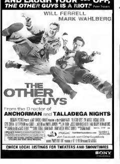
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WILL FERRELL

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The Extra Man

budget. Now the reverse is [illegible]. [illegible] have [illegible] of his budget [illegible] away from him. He'll only muck it up. One way to salvage some fun and this blunderbuss [illegible] is to fall asleep while watching and dream up a better movie yourself. Try it. You'll [illegible] headache. Costarring Ken Watanabe, Tom Hardy, Tom Berenger, and Joseph Gordon-Levitt (148 min.) (KLV ACC [illegible] BV DC BP CWC CB CCPH, [illegible] CUC CAPH, [illegible] CDC [illegible] [illegible] BR, JL, UAB, [illegible])

[illegible] A Piece of Work [illegible] documentary [illegible] into the daily life of the [illegible] [illegible] stand-up comic yields [illegible] insights, and we're happy to [illegible] Rivers as [illegible] and a bad [illegible] thing we can conclusively say [illegible] Ms. Rivers: She doesn't know the meaning of the word "quit." Or "enough," [illegible]. As if [illegible] of wit, she's outlasted dozens as many of her comedic contemporaries as the late Bob [illegible]. The sight of her puffy, collagen-[illegible] [illegible] is enough to [illegible] [illegible] forever. [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] as Ricki Stern and Anne Sundberg. (*The Devil Came on Horseback*) (84 min.) (KLV RCE)

The Karate Kid [illegible] budget of the 1984 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] original. [illegible] Jaden Smith is the immigrant, a kid from Detroit who [illegible] with his mother to Beijing for her work in the [illegible] industry [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] Han (Jackie Chan) is the [illegible] [illegible] him to kung fu to help him ward off the [illegible] pack of martial-arts bullies. As an [illegible] the filmmakers [illegible] the [illegible] story [illegible] [illegible] to [illegible] with majestic travelogue scenes of the Great Wall, Dragon Wall, etc. For the record, 56-year-old Sing Lung (Jackie's Chinese stage name) still has the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] in character as the [illegible] Mr. Han. Taraji P. Henson (as Dre's mom) and Han Wenwen (as [illegible], the [illegible] love interest) and the necessary [illegible] about [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] intentions by Dutch [illegible] Harald Zwart, from a screenplay by Christopher Murphey, [illegible] from Robert Mark Kamen's story. The more accurate international title is *The Kung Fu Kid* (140 min.) (KLV [illegible])

The Kids Are All Right [illegible] Cholodenko [illegible] to [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] this [illegible] and knowing [illegible] about what happens to a [illegible] lesbian couple (Annette Bening, Julianne Moore) when the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of their teenagers (Mark Ruffalo) shows up and starts wrong [illegible]. Writer-director Cholodenko (*Laurel Canyon*, *High Art*) and [illegible] partner Stuart Blumberg have a keen eye for the details of contemporary Californian life, and the three lead performances [illegible] deep into situational [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] of life [illegible]. With plenty of smart laughs. [illegible] is especially fine as [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] a Volvo wagon and worships Joni Mitchell. [illegible] (104 min.) (KLV [illegible] [illegible] CWC CUC CAPH CR PM [illegible] [illegible])

Knight and Day [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] for her [illegible] wedding, Cameron Diaz gets mixed up with [illegible] CIA agent Tom Cruise and [illegible] they try to keep a [illegible] [illegible] from falling into the wrong hands. Cruise and Diaz [illegible] [illegible] together [illegible] [illegible]

Girl [illegible] this is [illegible] first summer movie [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] indie, goof comedic [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of unknown [illegible] they [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] director [illegible] Mangold (*Walk the Line*) has the good sense never to let the [illegible] plot stop moving. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] exploitation of [illegible] public [illegible]. With Peter Sarsgaard, Viola Davis, and Paul Dano (110 min.) (CJ [illegible] [illegible])

[illegible] Last Airbender M. Night Shyamalan [illegible] [illegible] live-action remake of the popular [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], Dev Patel [illegible] (KA, UAB)

Lol ([illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]) The [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] French [illegible] Agnès Jaoui and Jean-Pierre Bacri (*The Taste of Others*, *Look at Me*) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] (Jaoui) [illegible] her family [illegible] in the South of France while being [illegible] by a [illegible] [illegible] producer [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible]) and his inept [illegible] ([illegible]). Not [illegible] "ha ha" but funny "huh?" The [illegible] [illegible] typically [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible], and here their characters are more than usually annoying. She's [illegible] and superstitious; he's a [illegible] of [illegible] and character. [illegible] [illegible] by the husband-wife [illegible] of [illegible] and [illegible] and directed by Jaoui (110 min.) (KLV RCE)

Life During Wartime [illegible] [illegible] and [illegible] [illegible] amusing lives of Todd Solondz's amazingly neurotic characters. Writer-director Solondz's story is built [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] played by Shirley Henderson, Allison Janney, and Ally Sheedy [illegible] but there's enough [illegible] and self-loathing to go around, especially coming from the Janney character's Bar-Mitzvah-aged son (Dylan Riley Snyder) who [illegible] [illegible] through all the [illegible]. Solondz evidently views this as a sequel, with an entirely new cast [illegible] to his 1998 film *Happiness*, but forget about that. Even for Solondz admirers this may be too much [illegible] a good thing. Also in the top-heavy cast: Ciarán Hinds, [illegible] Lerner, Paul Reubens, and Charlotte Rampling, as a hotel [illegible] lounge vampire (98 min.) (KLV [illegible])

[illegible] Mba [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of how the Internet [illegible] the world's [illegible] of porn. [illegible] [illegible] George [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] part of Los Angeles [illegible] (Cameron Richardson, Gabriel Macht) [illegible] new [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] 1997 [illegible] [illegible] with a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] (Rosie [illegible]) [illegible] as an [illegible] [illegible] businessman (Luke Wilson) to [illegible] credit-card-based paid "adult" content on the Web. [illegible] [illegible] of money and a flurry of up-[illegible] [illegible]. [illegible] one or two laughs. [illegible] not quite enough and a little of the [illegible] of [illegible] Gallo's *Midnight Run*, but [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. The supporting [illegible] [illegible] and character actors from Gallo's Eighties-Nineties [illegible] period. James Caan, Bill [illegible], Kevin Pollak, [illegible], Kelsey Grammer, [illegible] [illegible]. Christopher [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Wilson character's [illegible] love interest (100 min.) (KLV [illegible] [illegible] BV DC BP [illegible] CWC CB CCPH CR CUC S RH JL)

Showtimes Online

Movie showtimes and online ticket-buying at EastBayExpress.com

Mysteries of Egypt National Geographic and a team of scientists reveal the [illegible] legends, history and [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] of [illegible] Egyptian [illegible] CSC

[illegible] [illegible] Guys Will Ferrell and Mark Wahlberg co-star in this [illegible] [illegible] New York City cops. Directed by Adam McKay. ACC [illegible] BV DC BP CWC CB CCPH CR CUC CN [illegible] BR, CUC, CA, CWC, RH, JL, [illegible]

Pirate Radio For [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] never get enough [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the soundtrack, [illegible] [illegible] of the year. [illegible] [illegible] anyone [illegible] [illegible] and a laugh [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the Kinks, Who, Troggs, Yardies, [illegible], Jeff Beck, Dusty Springfield, et al., to English listeners from a ship [illegible] in the North Sea. On [illegible] are Philip Seymour Hoffman, Rhys Ifans, Bill Nighy, Nick Frost, and Tom Sturridge among the [illegible], with a [illegible] Kenneth Branagh as the [illegible] government [illegible] [illegible] to shut them down, and Emma Thompson as [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. It's a [illegible] [illegible] summer camp on the high seas, [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] by [illegible] Curtis (*Love Actually*, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*) from his own screenplay. British title: *The Boat That Rocked* (135 min.) (KLV [illegible])

Predators Heavily [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] by a force unknown and [illegible] [illegible] jungle, are hunted [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] which made its [illegible] in the [illegible] Schwarzenegger [illegible] [illegible] *Predator* (1987). Among others, there's an [illegible] [illegible] (Adrien Brody), a [illegible] Guatemalan freedom fighter (Alice Braga), a Southern-fried [illegible] psychopath (Walton Goggins) and an enforcer for a Mexican drug [illegible] (Danny Trejo). This is [illegible] [illegible] reboot [illegible] [illegible] of the original movie. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible], and [illegible] money in the [illegible]. The dialogue is dumber than dirt, and the plot [illegible] to the halfway mark, but the movie does what a [illegible] summer [illegible] should, which is [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] directed (107 min.) ([illegible])

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MOT

Ramona and Beezus Ramona Quimby, the [illegible] [illegible] of Beverly Cleary's [illegible] finally [illegible] on the big screen after 60 years, and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of everyday [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of children's [illegible]. The movie is [illegible] [illegible], with [illegible] [illegible] of the 1950s [illegible] [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] "Walking on Sunshine") but [illegible] [illegible] your [illegible]-year-old. For the grown-ups, there are sweet, sincere performances by [illegible] Goodwin, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] directed. (1 [illegible] [illegible])

Restrepo [illegible] [illegible] Journalists [illegible] Tim Hetherington and Sebastian Junger spent [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of US Army troops in the [illegible] Korengal Valley in [illegible] Afghanistan ("the [illegible] place on earth") as the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] forward outpost, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible] firefights. The net [illegible] is that we learn to [illegible] the young [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. One of the very few documentaries of the Iraq-Afghanistan war years that [illegible] when the lights go up. (93 min.) [illegible]

Salt Just as [illegible] [illegible] are taught to [illegible] their weapons [illegible], [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] seems to have been given a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] place from the roof of one moving truck to another, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] computer screens—and jammed them together in the [illegible]. This [illegible] adventure stars Angelina Jolie as [illegible] CIA officer who's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and spends most of the movie on the run from [illegible] colleagues Liev Schreiber and Chiwetel Ejiofor. There's [illegible] [illegible] and original sequence—an [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]—but otherwise, this [illegible] [illegible] generic. Phillip Noyce (The Quiet American) directed. (100 min.) [illegible]

Monsters The story of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of [illegible]

The Sorcerer's Apprentice [illegible] the [illegible] have [illegible] with [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Arthurian England, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Alfred Molina ([illegible]) [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

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THE GIRL WHO PLAYED WITH FIRE (R)

THE KIDS ARE ALL RIGHT (R)

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WINTER'S BONE (R)

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THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO (R)

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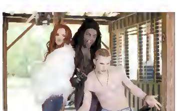

Vampires Suck

[illegible] and [illegible] good [illegible] eye-popping, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] newcomer [illegible] Palmer [illegible]

Step Up 3 [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] of the Arts going to Paris for a dance competition, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

To Be an [illegible] [illegible] what it takes? Take a trip inside the [illegible] of NASA [illegible] on [illegible] view of everything from [illegible] to [illegible] (43 min.) [illegible]

Toy Story 3 Toy Story 3 [illegible] [illegible] Buzz Lightyear (Tim Allen), and the rest of the now-outdated toys got accidentally [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] place after lights-out, ruled by a pink [illegible] teddy bear that [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Ken, of course, [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]. It's impossible to imagine anyone who's had even a marginally happy childhood [illegible] this movie — no matter how [illegible] Pixar may seem at times. Continuing a trend, Toy Story 3 is every bit as sentimental as Up. Directed by Lee Unkrich, from [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] and the original story by John Lasseter, Andrew Stanton, and [illegible] (103 min.) [illegible]

The Twilight Saga: Eclipse No reason for anyone other than the [illegible] to sit through this third [illegible] of the phenomenally lucrative gothic-lite romance franchise. Despite a big battle pitting the Cullen [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] a group of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Seattle, the [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] boyfriend Edward (Robert Pattinson), a [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] (Taylor Lautner). Suggestion: Next time around, why not go all the way and [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]? [illegible] Meyer's novel (124 min.) [illegible]

Winter's Bone [illegible] [illegible] Debra Granik made her feature debut with Down to the Bone (2004), a stark working-class drama with Vera Farmiga giving a [illegible] performance [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Granik [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] ladder to the [illegible] Ozarks. A 17-year-old girl (Jennifer Lawrence) struggles to care for her mentally [illegible] mama and two younger siblings. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] her daddy, [illegible] for cooking crystal meth, [illegible] 21st-century [illegible] community [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] poverty. With John Hawkes. (99 min.) [illegible]

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ONE-NIGHT STANDS

THURSDAY, AUGUST 12

[illegible] (110 min., 1987) [illegible]

[illegible] The [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] (PFA, 7:00)

Mississippi Damned (120 min., 2009). [illegible] International Black LGBT Film Festival (BCE, 7:00)

Monsters vs. Aliens (94 min., 2009). Waterfront Flicks: Free [illegible] Movies (Jack London Square, Oakland, 8:00)

[illegible] (110 min., 1958). [illegible] (BCE, 8:30)

[illegible] A [illegible] of [illegible] [illegible] Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival (BCE, 9:30)

FRIDAY, AUGUST 13

[illegible] (124 min., 1960). [illegible] (PFA, 7:00)

Al Capone (104 min., 1959). [illegible] (PFA, 9:00)

The [illegible] Drive-in/Bike-in/Walk-in Movie Festival A [illegible] of [illegible] short films (Mandela Village Arts Center, [illegible] 9:00)

SATURDAY, AUGUST 14

After the Storm (29 min., 2009). Presented by HIV Story Project. Oakland International Black LGBT Film Festival (BCE, noon)

[illegible] (14 min., 1933). [illegible] Revolución: Celebrating the [illegible] of Mexico's Revolution (PFA, 6:30)

[illegible] (85 min., 1933). [illegible] Revolución: Celebrating the [illegible] of Mexico's Revolution (PFA, 8:15)

The 2[illegible] Annual [illegible] Drive-in/Bike-in/Walk-in Movie Festival A series of [illegible] short films (Mandela Village Arts Center, [illegible] 9:00)

SUNDAY, AUGUST 15

Kagemusha (160 min., 1980). Akira Kurosawa Centennial (PFA, 1:00)

MONDAY, AUGUST 16

Elvis on Tour (93 min., 1972). [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] Cult Movies and Cocktails [illegible] (The Lounge, Alameda, 7:30)

TUESDAY, AUGUST 17

Seven Samurai (208 min., 1954). Akira Kurosawa Centennial (PFA, 7:00)

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 18

[illegible] (105 min., 1972). Akira Kurosawa Centennial (PFA, 7:00)

HOLY TORNADO!

Oakland power trio turns the cello into a masculine instrument.

By Rachel Swan

Tornado Rider

It takes a commanding stage presence and a very specific personality type to turn the cello into a masculine instrument. **Rushad Eggleston** succeeds on both counts. Well, sort of. The lithe five-foot six, fine-featured thirty-year-old began playing Bach Suites a full two decades ago. He went on to study at **Berklee School of Music** and serve in a well-known bluegrass band called **Crooked Still**. Now he prefers spastic punk rock.

Eggleston lives on the upper floor of a handsome four-bedroom house owned by retired **Oakland A's** left fielder **Ricky Henderson**. There's art on the walls and a huge cache of *Playboy* magazines, all inherited from someone's father. There's a fully alphabetized record collection. There's a bed in the living room where Eggleston used to crash, before he found permanent digs in a small closet on the upper floor. There's a blood splatter on the wall beside the bed, from a time Eggleston banged his head out of excitement. Four housemates occupy the bedrooms — among them **Scott Manke**, who plays drums alongside Eggleston in their new band **Tornado Rider**. Henderson sometimes comes by to do maintenance. He trimmed all the hedges outside one week before getting inducted into the **National Baseball Hall of Fame**.

Tornado Rider practices in the basement, which has just enough room to fit Manke's drum set, a small trampoline, and the Marshall cab for Eggleston's cello — plus the cello proper and their third bandmate, bassist **Graham Terry**. For a three-man operation they pack a formidable wallop, as the Riders demonstrated on a recent Wednesday afternoon.

"Ear plugs — do you have any?" Eggleston asked, grinning mischievously. He'd placed a small striped sock atop the tuning knobs of his cello. ("It creates action," he said.) He wore an elf hat tilted at a rakish angle. He commenced to bowing.

The notes that spilled forth — in wild, hurly-burly cadenzas — were part of a Bach Bourrée that Tornado Rider occasionally repurposes for the rare lulls in its stage set. Eggleston played the Bourrée once through. Manke joined in on the second round, supplying a raucous back beat. Terry gave the bass a double-time feel. Eggleston made the last note crackle.

"We're just fucking around," he said.

The three band members launched into a song they'd been working on that day called "Jig of the Sneth Fairies." It began as a brisk Irish folk dance. Manke pounded his ride cymbal. Eggleston bowed his cello with the perfect clipped motions of a trained classical musician. He made the last phrase screech, then paused a beat.

"A one, a two, a one two three!"

Eggleston switched to an electrifying minor-key riff that could have been the basis for a surf-rock song. Terry answered on bass. Manke pummeled his drum set. Eggleston sang in a thick, scratchy treble. He fought hard as the cello and bass threatened to choke off his voice. The song pushed forward, with Eggleston stabbing at his cello strings while pinched harmonics squealed through the speakers. Then came the breakdown: quiet, dramatic, pizzicato. It was classical music in power-trio form.

It turned out the second piece, "Search Warden," was part of Eggleston's musical in progress. "It's about these fairies," said Eggleston, who is clearly a fairy enthusiast. "They get their songs stolen by this kind of evil dude. And they look up the Sneth registry and they're like, 'Oh, search warden. Let's go find him.' So they travel across the desert and find this dude, Bill Bargenson." He sings: *Wild Bill Bargenson tons of/Wild and crazy stuff/Dances down the highway with/Lightning bolts made of his hands*

Naturally, it's odd for a cello to play the part of an electric guitar. And that's not the only bedeviling thing about Tornado Rider. For starters, there's an odd gulf separating the three band members in terms of expertise. Eggleston played cello for roughly twenty years before forming the band in 2008. He'd begun fooling around with distortion and developed an odd fixation with punk rock power trios. Neither Terry nor Manke knew how to play their current instruments. Both had musical pasts though. Manke played banjo as a kid and spent part of his adult life repairing and fabricating guitars. Terry played violin and a little guitar. Still, Tornado Rider was, in many senses, a grand experiment.

And that's not to mention the weird costumes, stage antics, bizarre song lyrics, fairy stories, sampling of Bach Bourrées, or the band name being a singular noun. Even at a glance, the three band members make a strange mixed marriage. Eggleston is small and elfin, with sausage curls. Fine bones and sharp muscles allow him to leap over hedges and scramble up trees. He describes himself as "an acrobat" and brags about the time he climbed a redwood tree by Lake Merritt on a heavy dose of salvia. Manke is tall and sturdy. He studied ceramics at UC Santa Barbara and often paints in his spare time. Abstract prints adorn his living room walls like a series of **Rorschach** tests. Graham is slight and soft-spoken. He speaks fluent French. Last Wednesday, all three of them showed up to rehearsal in matching **Vans** sneakers. They said it was an accident.

Tornado Rider released its debut album, ***Do You Have Time . . . ?*** in 2009 and produced a spate of new songs in the ensuing months. Among these were a driving surf rock track called "I'm a Falcon," and "Mountain Rider," which begins with a low, grinding bass, a huge protracted drum roll, and a dirge-like cello solo. The music veers from medieval folk to worldish thrash.

Show Details

Tornado Rider performs Friday, Aug. 20 at Uptown Nightclub (1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland). 9 p.m. $10. UptownNightclub.com

Over two years, Tornado Rider gained renown both for its music and its hugely operatic stage shows. The three always arrive in costume. Eggleston wears a wireless mic so he can dangle from ropes on the ceiling, or pogo around the bandstand. Terry pulls out his **iPhone** and shows a video of Tornado Rider playing at **"Sand by the Ton,"** a huge beach party in Oakland's **American Steel** warehouse. He's suspended high above the stage from an aluminum rig, still holding the cello, still bowing ferociously.

"Do you have a video of the failure?" asked Eggleston. Apparently, the first time he tried that aerial stunt, the rig snapped. Eggleston fell six feet and landed on a monitor. He kept playing the whole time.

"It was amazing," Manke assured. Eggleston beamed. He said his brother is a pro-skater and they inherited the same durable bone structure. "I've seen that dude fall so fuckin' hard," said Manke. "You see him go down, and he can just roll out of it — any normal person would have a broken arm."

One thing is for certain: You'd never see such exploits in the classical world. ●

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Diagnosed with terminal lymphoma a popular transgendered cabaret star plans her final act.

By Jake Wood

"Have you ever been stood up — by a hooker?" asked Nicole, aka **Nicole McRory**, a local cabaret host and transgendered singing extraordinaire. "Three different times, three different hookers!" Such is the life of an amiable — if brash — transgendered entertainer who could still work a pair of fishnets at age sixty. Well known for her long-running showcases at **Johnny Foley's** and **Beckett's** Irish pubs, Nicole became a fixture in Bay Area nightlife. She has a Wikipedic knowledge of pop songs, a freight train baritone, and a shockingly foul yet sweet sense of humor. She's the star of a new **YouTube** documentary ***Have No Fear***. She's a veritable institution.

And she's now saying her good-byes. In January, Nicole was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's B-cell mantle type lymphoma. It's a rare form of cancer and doctors told her the treatment came with a minority recovery rate. She was given the option of radiation, chemotherapy, and severe surgery, but after seeing a friend waste away in a hospital bed, she opted to skip treatment. She now has a few months to live.

Nicole was never your typical San Francisco musician. Standing at five-feet-ten, she had a mop of curly burgundy hair and a knack for being explicit. And being a post-op transsexual lesbian to boot, she's incapable of not drawing attention. For the last seven years, Nicole forged a career of making people drop their jaws, shake their hips, open their hearts, and bite their lips. Her M.O.? Relentlessly pounding out a variety of Top 40 sing-alongs and dance tunes. Each night, she hands out a booklet of some 850 hits for on-the-spot requests. Such enthusiasm and verve helped her avoid being pigeonholed as a transgender performer. Every week, Nicole entertains college kids, businessmen, tourists, and a mixed bag of locals. She spent years shouldering a busy performance schedule of four nights a week.

Born in Hartford, Connecticut, Nicole began her life as **Colin McRory**. One of her earliest memories is being three years old, seeing her mother naked, and thinking "I want that." Even as a kid, she believed her penis was simply "wrong." She grew up a straight male, got married twice ("one hell and one heaven") and only dated men while cross-dressing because they made her feel more like a lady.

Nicole began her forty year long music career performing in New York (where she spent two years studying voice at Juilliard), then in Vail, Colorado. She moved to the Bay Area in 2000, and changed her name from Colin to Nicole shortly thereafter. She got her SF break from **Martin Connolly**, owner of Foley's and Beckett's, after dropping off a CD and coming in for an interview. Nicole recounts wooing Connolly while decked in full drag. Within half an hour she locked down four nights a week (split between both venues), which was essentially a consistent full-time job (a rare thing for musicians these days). Connolly, whom Nicole considers an "angelic Pierce Brosnan," couldn't resist the "good feeling" he was getting from her and two years later he considers Nicole to be "one of the finest human beings I've ever met."

Nicole

Since, Nicole has gone on to dazzle audiences with renditions of **U2**, **Journey**, **Johnny Cash**, and many others. Highlights of her performance include spot-on impersonations, especially a rendition of **Green Day**'s "Basket Case" which features a motley lineup of Johnny Cash, **Willie Nelson**, and **Bob Dylan**.

In 2003, Nicole turned dream into reality by traveling to Bangkok for sexual reassignment surgery. She said she was "instantly" happy after the surgery, and has been happy ever since. "I make no fucking bones about the fact that I'm a transsexual," Nicole said, interviewed in her spacious apartment right above the **University of San Francisco**. "You go see one of my shows, it's like, 'Am I trying to hide it?'"

Hiding isn't on this woman's agenda. Her stage banter mainly focuses on sex (her axe appropriately dubbed "Pussy"), and on challenging audiences' ideas of sexuality and gender. She says she's currently single, and hasn't wanted to be with a man since the stitches came out. She tried to find a female mate after the surgery, and managed to get stood up three separate times by call girls. Nicole grimly accepted the fact that she is destined to die a "born-again" virgin.

Of course, her ill-fated amours just became grist for comedy. Perhaps that's what keeps Nicole's audiences coming back for more. There's the tickles-below-the-belt humor, and there's the allure of the unknown. "It's because they see me acting fearless," Nicole said. More recently, she pushed the envelope even farther with jokes about her cancer. Naturally, she couldn't avoid upsetting a few people. One good-intentioned server warned that it might offend customers.

Earlier this July, Nicole was forced to retire from the stage due to her weakened health. Not one to quickly raise a white flag, she went out in style with a four-hour nonstop performance.

Nicole has her departure fully planned out. She'll hopefully throw one last fund-raising hoorah in about five months — fittingly titled **Lymphoma, The Concert**. (Full disclosure: During our interview, she asked if I would play drums for the show. I couldn't turn it down.) Nicole is relatively sanguine, contemplating her final act. She already has the last song programmed: "Don't Fear the Reaper." ■

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FRESHFEST USES HIP-HOP TO GET YOUTH OF COLOR IN THE ECO MOVEMENT

The event formerly known as Grind for the Green relocates to Oakland this year. Plus a protest to help save Jelly's from eviction

By Kathleen Richards

Zakiya Harris.

An employee of the **San Francisco Green Festival**, **Zakiya Harris** knows that the mainstream eco movement is pretty much an all-white affair. So three years ago Harris launched her **Grind for the Green** organization and held a music event of the same name at **Yerba Buena Center for the Arts**, using hip-hop as a way to spread the message of a healthy, ecologically minded lifestyle to youth of color. But even holding the event became a challenge. "When you say 'hip-hop' and 'youth,' people get scared," noted Harris. This year the folks at Yerba Buena didn't offer a date to host her event (which, she says, has been incident free since its inception).

Since her funding from the City of San Francisco also dried up, Harris decided to move the festival to Oakland, where she currently lives. "It's a homecoming of sorts," she said. Harris also rechristened the event "**FreshFest**," citing the fact that "fresh" has always been a hip-hop term, while "green" connotes whiteness. She launched a national "**Get Fresh**" campaign in June, whose web site **MyGetFresh.com** aims to be the "hip-hop generation's official guide to the green movement," including an "eco-hop" jukebox and videos on how to become more green.

Living a healthy lifestyle that minimizes harm on the environment isn't a new or a white concept, Harris says. "We're rooting it in our indigenous wisdom," she said, adding that there are elders in the community who've been practicing such concepts long before the word "green" became fodder for **Stuff White People Like**.

The FreshFest will be held on Saturday, August 14, from noon to 6 p.m. at **Mosswood Park** in Oakland. Hosted by **The Coup's Boots Riley**, the free event will feature a solar-powered DJ set by **Pete Rock** and performances by **Erk the Jerk**, **Nu Dekades**, **Do D.A.T.**, and **Holly Saucy**. There will be composting and recycling on site, bike-powered smoothies (on sale) and solar-powered cooling devices by the **Environmental Services Learning Initiative** (a program of **Global Exchange**, which is co-presenting the festival), food tastings by **Mandela Marketplace** of West Oakland, aquaponic demos by **Kijiji Grows**, recycled art and storytelling, booths for community organizations, art installations (including one on the connections between toxicity and violence), and more. Three handpicked groups will also perform environmental hip-hop songs. ("Serious emcees" can audition on Saturday, August 7, from noon-2 p.m. at the **Oakland Green Youth Arts & Media Center**, 2781 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.) Harris encourages participants to bring their own water bottles and lunches to minimize waste.

Since Grind for the Green's funding is in transition, Harris says they'll begin fund-raising this fall. Considering the financial strain that all nonprofits are under, she says they'll have to get creative. She's floating one idea of creating their own solar- and bike-powered rig to rent out to others, since she currently has to rent theirs from "hippies up north."

Miscellaneous Debris

Supporters of a San Francisco *restaurant/club* that's facing eviction in the wake of a July 11 shooting will hold a "protest rumba" in front of the **Port of San Francisco** on Pier 1 from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, August 13. In a press release, the owners of **Jelly's A Dance Cafe** claim that their eviction is the result of gentrification efforts. Meanwhile, port officials say the eviction is due to public safety issues (the July incident was the second shooting in the club's history) and the fact that the establishment does not serve food during its events, in violation of the terms of its lease. Food violations have also been the root of several citations against other San Francisco nightclubs by the **California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control**. So far about 700 people have signed a petition to reverse the port's decision. … **Mua** has announced it's ending its weekend nightclub. For those unaware, the Oakland restaurant/bar would transform into a full-on packed hip-hop nightclub around midnight on the weekends. According to Mua's Twitter feed, the venue is shifting its focus back to food, and will be a full-time restaurant with late-dinner seating.

Two men were injured in a shooting last Tuesday outside **The New Parish** in Oakland, reports the **Bay City News Service**. The shooting took place at 11:25 p.m. at 579 18th Street. Inglewood hip-hop group **Cali Swag District** was performing that night, along with **DJ Mindmotion**. The victims — age 22 and 31 — are expected to survive their wounds, and no arrests have been made. ●

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Ear Bud is culled from our music blog, Ear Bud.

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SUBURBAN LIGHT

Sun-drenched melodies, one-human bands, and old sounds repurposed

Arcade Fire

The Suburbs

If "Windowsill" was *Neon Bible*'s continuation of **Arcade Fire**'s timeless 2004 ballad "Neighborhood #4 (Kettles)," then "Suburban War" (from the Montreal band's new LP *The Suburbs*) is the next chapter in that emotional small-town story and an impressive suite of its own. And one that more directly reveals the Montreal band's classic-rock influences. "Suburban War" begins with an **XTC** (or **Roger McGuinn**)-style guitar intro, then unsubtly hints at what **Bruce Springsteen** did best as a young man (i.e., find transcendence in North America's paved-over prairie). Indeed, *In the suburbs/I learned to drive/People told me we would never survive* sounds like a line right out of "Born to Run." Throughout "Suburban War" and other tracks, Arcade Fire references musical themes cemented decades ago by **U2** ("Half Light II") and **New Order** ("Sprawl II") among other Eighties heavies.

To lambast **Win Butler** along with his multi-talented wife **Régine Chassagne** — who profoundly shines on *The Suburbs* after she was just a beautiful echo on *Neon Bible* — for wearing their influences on their "pop star army fatigues" sleeves is just wrong. Yet, several major newspapers have already begun to fight that losing battle. Sure, *The Suburbs*' slow-burning ballads, driving near-punk rockers, and ambitious suites are steeped in the long-effective sounds of Arcade Fire's heroes, not to mention the best of the band's own catalog. As always, Owen Pallett's heaven-drenched string arrangements reign throughout.

These days, cobbling a brilliant album is tantamount to building a new house out of recycled materials. On its next release, Arcade will probably make good on a lyric from its track "Rococo": The band will *build it up just to burn it back down*. (Merge)

— Adam Perry

Wild Nothing

Gemini

The Love Language

Libraries

We seem to be in the era of the "one-human band" — solo performers known by a moniker or pseudonym that sounds like a band name but which are in essence one person, either playing and singing all parts him/herself or backed by a rotating cast of accompanists.

Wild Nothing is the vehicle for **Jack Tatum** (formerly of the band **Facepaint**) and *Gemini* is its debut. Listeners pining for the early- and mid-1980s UK new wave epoch — especially **My Bloody Valentine**, **Felt**, and the **4AD** bands — are going to be in heaven here. The songs feature hazy, distant-sounding and gauzy vocals; strummed, jang-ling, and mildly distorted guitars; shimmering synthesizers; and drum machines. What makes it more than mere nostalgia is Tatum's overall approach, characterized by subtlety, winsomely catchy melodies, and warmth. He's absorbed inspiration from his role models but he never tries to be them.

The Love Language — aka North Carolina's **Stuart McLamb** — shares some of Wild Nothing's affinity for the Eighties. *Libraries* recalls the briefly popular New Romantic movement (i.e., **Spandau Ballet**, **Visage**, **ABC**), mainly because of McLamb's florid, suavely lovelorn, slightly theatrical **Bryan Ferry**-influenced singing. But McLamb succeeds where his predecessors failed. Whereas most of those bands were long on style but short on substance, *Libraries*' songs are the creatively constructed sort. And they sound better on successive listens. McLamb put his own spin on that era's candy-colored angst: "Horophones" has **Beach Boys**-like harmonies and wrenching guitar feedback. With its strutting cadence and chiming motifs, "Summer Dust" could almost be a "lost" single by Sixties melodrama master **Gene Pitney** or **Roy Orbison**. Both of these albums are seriously good fun. (Captured Tracks; Merge)

—Mark Keresman

Beach Fossils

Beach Fossils

If summer 2010 has a signature sound — at least in the land of indie pop — Brooklyn's **Beach Fossils** have nailed it with their self-titled debut. Think sun-drenched lawn chairs and drugstore sunglasses. Think beaches. Think sand. With song titles like "Daydream," "Vacation," and yes, "Lazy Day," it's the perfect soundtrack for idle times and happy dreams.

The album, much like other bands in the so-called "beach genre" (**Best Coast**, **Wavves**, **Washed Out**, to name a few), works the lo-fi angle. But Beach Fossils distinguishes themselves with their subtle, purposeful use of reverb, creating an overall sound that's more melancholy, more hauntingly nostalgic, and less fuzzy than their counterparts. The band launched last year as a solo project of frontman **Dustin Payseur**, who single-handedly recorded and mixed most of the album and then recruited members to form the current quartet.

On all eleven songs, the jangly guitar is always the hook, plucking out single-string melodies that wash over the simple drumbeats like gentle waves. Frontman's vocals may be a mish-mash of tinny, undecipherable murmurs and slacker speak, but it hardly matters. Payseur's appeal lies in the echo-like quality of his voice. Whispering over each track, he conjures memories of beaches past — or beaches that might have been. (Captured Tracks)

— Katie Bueno

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LOCAL LICKS

BY KIRSTY EVANS

Joe Talbot

The Red & the Black

Joe Talbot sounds like he stepped out of that period of the late-Sixties and early-Seventies when rock was just starting to find its identity and still contained a lot of folk and blues. Talbot has an interesting voice, a lovely female backup vocalist, and a knack for composition. Nothing on *The Red & the Black* sounds new, but it's retro in a good way. Imagine **Tony Bennett** performing post-acoustic **Bob Dylan** and you're halfway there. (self-released)

Soft Hyms

A Party in Motion

Listening to *A Party in Motion* feels like being mildly stoned. It's reminiscent of Eighties British indie, but with added keyboard of the baby Casio variety. It's as if **Spandau Ballet** got lost at **Burning Man** – strange but sort of cool. Whether or not they can produce anything resembling this kind of sound live is another question. (Ernest Jenning Record Co.)

At California Academy of Sciences (55 Music Concourse Dr., San Francisco) on August 19, 6 p.m., $12.

Sean Hayes

Run Wolves Run

Sean Hayes makes some seriously charming country-tinged folk. There are some definite blues influences in there, too, unsurprising given that Hayes grew up in North Carolina. He ventures into rock on songs like "Gunrun," while "Garden" is dark and resonant with Southern blues tendencies. Overall, *Run Wolves Run* is an accomplished album, diverse in scope and subtly skillful in execution. (self-released)

Hotel Vitale (8 Mission St., San Francisco) on August 18, 5 p.m., $10.

Citizen

In Search of Her Soul

Recording a tribute to the legendary **Nina Simone** is certainly a daunting task, but **Citizen** pulls it off. *In Search of Her Soul* has a cool, laid-back feel. It blends hip-hop smoothly with jazz and soul elements. Samplings from Simone's old records add a nostalgic touch to this solo debut by a member of hip-hop collective **The Understudies**. (Study Music)

Bay Area bands: show us what you've got. Send CDs to Local Licks c/o the *East Bay Express*. To share this story, type: ebx.by/ju/licks

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SAT 9pm [illegible]	TA DOW!! DJ TEEKO (4ONEFUNK/T A M E) future funk & classic party anthems [illegible]
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CONCERTS & CLUBS

ON SALE THIS WEEK

Bring Me the Horizon w/ [illegible]. Tickets go on sale Sunday, August 15 at 10 a.m. Wed., Sep. 22, 8:30 p.m., $17. The Regency Center, 1300 Sutter St., San Francisco.

The Cult w/ The Black Ryder. Tickets go on sale Sunday, August 15 at 10 a.m. Sun., Sept. 19, 8 p.m., $38.50-$48.50. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco.

Flyleaf w/ Story of the Year. Tickets go on sale Sunday, August 15 at 10 a.m. Mon., Nov. 15, 7:30 p.m., $30. The Grand Ballroom, 1300 Van Ness Ave. (at Sutter St.), San Francisco.

Interpol w/ White Rabbits. Tickets go on sale Thursday, August 19 at 10 a.m. Mon., Dec. 13, 8 p.m., $35. Fox Theater, 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland.

Vacation [illegible] Band w/ [illegible], King Charles. Tickets go on sale Sunday, August 15 at 10 a.m. Wed., Sep. 29, 8 p.m., $13.50. The Warfield, 982 Market St., San Francisco.

Bonnie Raitt. Tickets go on sale Saturday, August 14 at 10 a.m. Fri., Sep. 10, 7:30 p.m. The Shoreline Amphitheatre, One Amphitheatre Pkwy., Mountain View.

Bonnie Raitt w/ [illegible]. Tickets go on sale Thursday, August 12 at 10 a.m. Thu., Nov. 4, 6:30 p.m. The Grand Ballroom, 1300 Van Ness Ave. (at Sutter St.), San Francisco.

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

THURSDAY 12

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

[illegible] Band The Saddle Rack, 8 pm, tba

[illegible] Vacation Arts Center 7 pm, TBA.

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] & Friends Armando's, 8 pm, $10

Quartet Bartlett's Organic Coffee 8 [illegible], free

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 pm, $16

[illegible] and [illegible] Duke's Lighthouse 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $8-$10

[illegible] Todos Santos Plaza 6:30 pm, free

Roger [illegible] and the [illegible] [illegible], 10 pm, free

Space Vacation w/ [illegible], Stork Club 8 pm, tba

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

The [illegible] Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10-$20

Soul Clap w/ DJ Jonathan Toubin, The Uptown, 9 pm, $5

[illegible] Thursdays [illegible] Nightclub 7 pm, $4

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

The [illegible] w/ [illegible] and the Blue Beat Review, The Independent, 9 pm, $15

[illegible] Night [illegible] Jam, [illegible] Tavern, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Band [illegible], 9 [illegible] 17 pm, $18

Or The [illegible] w/ [illegible] Fall, [illegible] Hill, 9 pm, $10-$12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon [illegible] a tour of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in [illegible] of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$72

Josh [illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $10

[illegible] Band San Francisco-based [illegible] perform live jazz and [illegible], 7:30-11:30 pm, $10

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Fugitive Kind, [illegible] Records, 9 pm, $8

[illegible] August of [illegible] w/ [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8 pm, $10

The [illegible] w/ [illegible], The Horns of Happiness, [illegible], 9 pm, $8, $10

The Joy Formidable w/ [illegible], 330 Ritch, 9 pm, $10-$12

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 9 pm, $8

[illegible] [illegible], 7 pm, donations accepted

[illegible] w/ [illegible], 1984 Lounge, 8:30 pm, $10, $12

[illegible] The Fillmore, 9 pm, $25

White Hills w/ [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 8 pm, $6

Zachary [illegible] w/ Kelly McFarling, Casual Fog, & Black Bear, Kimo's, 9 pm, $5-$8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Elbo Room, 7:30 pm, $30-$35

[illegible] Big Fat Booty Band w/ [illegible], [illegible] Room, 9 pm, $12

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Arab Culture [illegible] [illegible] Gardens, 12:30 [illegible], free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $12

[illegible] Brothers Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $30

FRIDAY 13

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], California, The New Parish, 9 pm, $15

[illegible] Band The Saddle Rack, 9 pm, tba

Lil' [illegible] and his Zydeco Band Eagles Hall, 9 pm, $15

Livingston Taylor Freight & Salvage 8 pm, $22.50-$23.50

[illegible] Richmond [illegible] Music Festival w/ [illegible] Lloyd's Garage, [illegible] Blues, 8:30 pm, free

[illegible] Armando's, 8 pm, $10

Travelin' Light [illegible], 8 pm, free

Experimental & Avant Garde

[illegible] and Film Program by [illegible] Berkeley Art Museum, 7:30 pm, tba

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] La Peña Cultural Center 8 pm, $18-$20

[illegible] Big Band [illegible] 7 & 9 pm, $5-$15

[illegible] Ashkenaz, 9 pm, $10, $13

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Superfest featuring [illegible] Hamilton, [illegible] & [illegible], Sleep [illegible] Pavilion, 7 pm, TBA

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Project, [illegible] Club 8 pm, tba

Fang w/ Depressed Logic, Sex Offenders, [illegible], 924 Gilman, 7:30 pm, $10

[illegible] Jack London Square noon, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], The Uptown, 8 pm, $10-$15

Victory and Associates w/ [illegible] and the Thieves, [illegible], Starry Plough, 9 pm, $8

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] Kaiser Center Roof [illegible], noon, free

[illegible] Jupiter 8 pm, free

The [illegible] Party featuring [illegible], Eastside Cultural Center, 7 pm, $5

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

[illegible] [illegible] 8:30 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible], 10 pm, free

[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free

[illegible] School Night featuring DJ [illegible], hip hop, & r&b, [illegible], 9 pm

[illegible] Zellerbach Hall, 8 pm, $35-$65

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $12

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9:30 pm, $12

[illegible] Band Johnny Foley's Irish House 9 pm, free

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $10

[illegible] and The Mighty [illegible] [illegible], 8 & 10 pm, $12

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Babylon [illegible] a tour of pop-culture figures in which Snow White travels around the world in [illegible] of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$77

[illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $12

The Jimmy Ryan Quartet [illegible], 5:30-8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Records, 8 pm, $10, $12

[illegible] Music Video Premiere Party w/ [illegible], [illegible] Gallery, 8 pm, $6

[illegible] solo piano, [illegible] Lounge, 6-8 pm, free

Vacation and Love Affair [illegible], 9 pm, $17

[illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, $6-$8

The [illegible] Band [illegible], The Independent, 9 pm, $49.50

[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible] Club, 8 pm, $10

[illegible] 2010 featuring [illegible], 8 pm, $15

Tokyo Police Club [illegible], 9 pm, $12-$14

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible] [illegible] Room, 7:30 pm, $30-$35

[illegible] Mezzanine, 8 pm, $40

[illegible] [illegible], 10 pm, $10

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

An Evening With [illegible] Great American Music Hall, 9 pm, $25

[illegible] Mezzanine, 9 pm, $40

[illegible] Productions [illegible] w/ DJ [illegible] and The [illegible], Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $12

SATURDAY 14

PICKS

Alejandro Escovedo & The Sensitive Boys

Ever since recovering from a life-threatening bout with hepatitis C, Alejandro Escovedo has been making some of the best music of his life. For his new album *Street Songs of Love*, Escovedo reunites with legendary glam rock producer **Tony Visconti** for a gritty bakers dozen worth of songs about the joy, heartbreak, and sensuality that comes with being in love. With his **Sensitive Boys** serving as trusted wing men, the Bay Area punk pioneer — and founding member of now legendary group, **The Nuns** — gets raucous, laying his emotions bare on the opening cut "Anchor" and pleading for a chance amid the choppy guitars of "Silver Cloud." And while album guests **Ian Hunter** and **Bruce Springsteen** won't be making the homecoming trip back to the Bay Area with Escovedo, you can be sure the singer will be tapping into his inner **Marc Bolan** on Saturday, Aug. 14, at **Bimbo's 365 Club** (1025 Columbus Ave., San Francisco), 9 p.m. $25. Bimbos365Club.com — *Dave Gil de Rubio*

Joy Kills Sorrow

The Grouch

Few top-tier emcees boast as many endearing personalities as **The Living Legends**, that ragtag band from Oakland whose members eventually moved down south to make it big. Despite all their subsequent fortunes — international tours, tracks for a spate of **Tony Hawk** video games, and a few sleeper hits — these emcees have never forgotten their hometown. Living Legends rapper **The Grouch** returns to the East Bay on Thursday, Aug. 12, for a solo show at **Shattuck Down Low** (2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley). Known for sticking by his principles (he eats a vegetarian diet and drives a bio-diesel Ford F-350), the Grouch is actually a lot more staid and soft-spoken than his stage name implies. As a rapper, though, he's formidable. 9 p.m., $10-$15. ShattuckDown-Low.com — *Rachel Swan*

Joy Kills Sorrow

Boston's Joy Kills Sorrow is nominally a bluegrass band, but the acoustic quintet takes the form to unexpected places with its blend of old-time, pop, folk, jazz, and literary singer-songwriter impulses. The band's lead vocalist, **Emma Beaton**, brings a low-key drama to the tunes, and her restrained performance imbues the music with an unbearable tension. Like many country singers, she seems poised on the brink of a nervous breakdown. The expert picking of the rest of the band, in particular **Wesley Corbett's** idiosyncratic banjo, props her up without ever getting overly exuberant. Joy Kills Sorrow plays Wednesday, Aug. 18, at **Freight & Salvage** (2020 Addison St., Berkeley), 8 p.m., $18.50, $19.50. TheFreight.org — *j. poet*

Open Opera

Opera is alive and well in the East Bay. This weekend brings **Open Opera**'s free outdoor production of Mozart's perennially popular *Don Giovanni*. Directed by the distinguished **Olivia Stapp**, and conducted by the irrepressible **Jonathan Khuner**, the production features three of the same singers who performed the opera for **Berkeley Opera** in February. Enjoy your burgers and beers as Don Giovanni stabs and stumbles his way to hell. *Don Giovanni* runs Saturday, Aug. 14, and Sunday, Aug. 15, at **John Hinkel Park** (Somerset Place, Berkeley), 3 p.m. free. 510-547-2471 or OpenOpera.net — *Jason Victor Serinus*

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C&C

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Acoustic Russell Live acoustic music on Gathers patio during the brunch hour, Gather, 11 am-2 pm.
Diablo Road The Saddle Rack, 10:15 pm, free
House The Saddle Rack, 7:15 pm, free

Classical & Opera

Music of Broadway featuring The Vallejo Symphony, [illegible], [illegible] & [illegible], Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 8 pm, $27, $20 seniors, $15 [illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Jazz & Joy Taste of Joy, 5:30 pm, free
Jazz Fourtet Caffe Trieste, 7 pm, free
Ben Mestmacher Trio Jupiter, 8 pm, free
Mount Diablo Jazz Festival featuring George Kirkton, [illegible], Bart Culbertson, Lucy Woodward, & more. [illegible] Pavilion, 4 pm, $27 [illegible]
Regina Maria Pastille [illegible]

[illegible]
The Road [illegible], 5 pm, $17

Rock & Pop

All The Rebels Present featuring [illegible], Punk Punk Meh, [illegible], [illegible], [illegible] on Telegraph, 9 pm, $8-$10
American Idols Live Sleep Train Amphitheatre, 7:30 pm, TBA
Shestock a benefit for the Women's Cancer Resource Center featuring Shelet in the Pit, Wildest Women, Scat Fink, & more, Stork Club, 6 pm, $10-$14 sliding scale
[illegible] w/ [illegible], [illegible], White Rabbit, & more, The Uptown, 8 pm, $12-$15
Ronnigh la Doucets w/ [illegible], [illegible], & more, Red [illegible], 7 pm, $10
Los Amigos de La Peña Saturday morning children's show w/ live music, La Peña Cultural Center, 10:30 am, $6, free $4
Mythic w/ Death Sentence: Panda, Mouse, Campbell, 21 Grand, 9 pm, tba
ZZ Top with Jonn Jett [illegible] [illegible] Amphitheatre, 7:30 pm, $45-$80

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Coppertone w/ The Undercutters, La Peña Cultural Center, 8 pm, $7
Footsteppin Geoffrey's, 10 pm, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Ona Carlos w/ Son Vallo w/ [illegible], Ashkenaz, 9:30 pm, $20, $25
[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, free
New Directions Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50, $19.50

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Alice Russell Yoshi's San Francisco, 10:30 pm, $22
The Rural Pages Johnny Foley's Irish House, 10 pm, free
Hootenanny Night Cafe International, 7 pm, free
KPIG Presents: Carolyn Wonderland / Dan Russell Trucker w/ [illegible], [illegible], 9 pm, $15
[illegible] [illegible], 8 pm, $20
The Whiskey Thieves w/ The John Kingbauer Band, [illegible], & The [illegible], [illegible], 8 pm, $20

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Smith Blanket Babylon musical revue based upon a pop-culture opera in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 7 & 10

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This Weekend!
August 13-14 (8pm)
BETTY BUCKLEY

This Weekend!
August 13-14 (10:00pm)
ALICE RUSSELL

Sun, August 15 (7pm & 9pm)
An Evening with
SHEILA E

August 16-18 Next Week!
BRIAN McKNIGHT

August 20-22
CHARANGA HABANERA

Mon August 23
LAURIE ANTONIOLI

Wed August 25
CARLOS REYES

JOHN ZORN
BAY AREA CONNECTION AUG. 26-28

Thurs August 26
TERRY RILEY / JOHN ZORN DUO
FRED FRITH MIKE PATTON JOHN ZORN

Wed August 11
MILK & JADE BY DANA LEONG

Thurs August 12
ROBIN McKELLE

This Weekend!
August 13-15
TOUMANI DIABATE
& THE SYMMETRIC ORCHESTRA

Mon August 16
JEFF HAMILTON TRIO

Tues August 17
JOHN CRUZ

August 18-19
ALFREDO DE LA FE

August 20-21
PATRICE RUSHEN & FRIENDS

Sun August 22
LINDA TILLERY
& THE CULTURAL HERITAGE CHOIR

Mon August 23
ERIC MUHLER

August 24-25
LENNY WHITE & ANOMALY
Featuring JIMMY HERRING (Widespread Panic)

August 26-29
AMEL LARRIEUX

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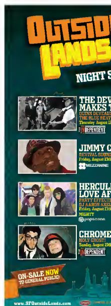
Gibson



OUTSIDE LANDS

NIGHT SHOWS

THE DEVIL MAKES THREE
QUINN DEVEAUX AND THE BLUE BEAT REVIEW
Thursday August 12th | 9:00pm | 21+
THE INDEPENDENT

JIMMY CLIFF
REVIVAL SOUND SYSTEM
Friday, August 13th | 9:00pm | 21+
MEZZANINE

HERCULES AND LOVE AFFAIR
PARTY EFFECTS
DJ AARON AXELSEN
Friday, August 13th | 9:00pm | 21+
MIGHTY
popscene

CHROMEO (DJ SET)
HOLY GHOST!
Sunday, August 15th | 10:00pm | 21+
THE INDEPENDENT

ON-SALE NOW TO GENERAL PUBLIC!

www.SFOutsideLands.com

pm, $25-$77

Holly Golden/[illegible] Sirt Tomorrow 8 pm, $12

Kindred East Telegraph Saloon, 9-11 pm, free

John Ellis & Groove Hash Cato's, 10 pm, $10

Lisa Gogolfew Cato's, 1 pm, $5

Rock & Pop

The 21st Century w/ [illegible] Stew & Mark Stein Ashworth, Kimo's, 8 pm, $5-$6

Alejandro [illegible] & The Sensitive Boys w/ Arty Cook, Brebe's 385 Club, 9 pm, $15

Buggy and Lemons Cafe du Nord, 8:30 pm, $12

Dolli Lambrecht's 3rd Fort Birthday Bash featuring Thee Headlines, The Heat Shots, Girls with Guns, & Lost Puppy Cafe [illegible] pm, $8

Rock & Roll Happy Hour [illegible] w/ local bands, Thee Parkside, 5-8 pm, free

Happy Hour Show featuring [illegible], [illegible] & Coming, Thee Parkside, 3 pm, free

John Biafro & the Performance School of Tomorrow w/ Le Butter Great [illegible] Music Hall 5 pm, $15

Oz Shadows w/ [illegible], Apache Thunderbolt, Hemlock Tavern, 9:30 pm, $7

Outside Lands featuring Further, The Strokes, My Morning Jacket, Kings of Leon, Phoenix, Social Distortion, & more Golden Gate Park, 12-10 pm, $75-$230

Pretty Lights The Independent, 10 pm, $30

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of music events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Toys That Kill w/ Songs For Moms, The Ro-Ratin, Kung Fu USA, & Frozen Embryos, Thee Parkside, 9 pm, $5

Wolfe's Oakland Presents: Restaurant Oasthea w/ Anna Cyanic, ClubRoom, 8 pm, $8-$12

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

All-4-One Reno Room, 1:30 pm, $30-$35

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Tomorrow Tropical featuring Cracaria Games, El Bozo Street, & DJ Bec, 11 [illegible]

Elbo Room, 10 pm, $8, $10

SUNDAY 15

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

Jimmy's All-Star Super Session Jimmy Steen & different blues band every week, Pete's Restaurant, 5 pm, free

John Nybak Brewer Cafe, 11 am, free

Sam Kloe-K Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$20.50

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Restaurant Unplugged: Big A & His Boozer w/ [illegible] Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Grass Brewer open mic jam, Ben Collins, 12-2 pm, free

Jaz Sawyer & [illegible] Piedmont Piano Company, 8 pm, $15

Sea Level The Kimono's, 3 pm, $10

Marcus's [illegible] Kitty & Stone & Sax Jam Zudo's Waterfront Restaurant and Nightclub, 5-10 pm, $10

Bossa, Funk, That Wong Trio Anchor Brewing, 4:30 pm, $10

Tenderer Brewer The Bean 6:30-8 pm, free

Tony Webster Quartet Oakland Public Library Golden Gate Branch 5 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Hall Oakland an October performance benefiting Oakland Angels Foundation, Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $43.50-$125

The Spooks w/ Port Bros, Lotus Break, Stork Club 8 pm, tba

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaeton

Domingos de Bossa La Peña Cultural Center, 3:30 pm, free

Papa & Edgar/Brewer And Cato's Ale House, 5 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Lounge: Songwriters Unplugged w/ Steve Kropp, Jolland Sal, Claudia Russo Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7

Rick Shea & the Pip Tops Amnesia & Noers, 8 & 10 pm, $10

VENUE DIRECTORY

EAST BAY

21 Points Gallery/Performance Space 420 [illegible] St., Oakland 510-444-7200

8 Degrees on Brewer 1403 Brewer Ave., Albany, 510-528-1220

924 Gilman 924 Gilman St., Berkeley, 510-525-9926

Air Bar & Oasis 410 9th St., Ruby Patio, Oakland 510-444-3377

Albatross Pub 1822 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-843-2473, AlbatrossPub.com

Ivan Alley 3325 Grand Ave., Oakland, 510-444-0505

Oakland Palms 2455 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley 510-549-1125

Armando's 707 Marina Vista Ave. Martinez, 925-228-6465

Art Point, Gallery & Oakland Center 3004 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-412-8811

Albatross 1200 San Pablo Ave. Berkeley 510-525-5054

Aura 8020 Hayward Pleasanton, 925-[illegible]

Bay Center Club 5610 Bay St., Emeryville

Beckett's 2271 Shattuck Ave. Oakland, 510-843-1700

Boston and Bar 817 17th St. Oakland, 510-444-2266

Buddy Bettie Center for the Arts 1601 Lincoln St. Alameda 510-523-6954

Briny's Club Bar 1251 Arroyo Way, Walnut Creek, 925-979-0130

The Bistro 1001 B St., Hayward, 510-886-8525

Center on Vineyards 2367 Telegraph Ave. Berkeley 510-848-0886

Caffe Brewer 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley, 510-548-8100

Gallery of Dance 115 E. Berkeley Ave. [illegible], 415-248-5806

Club 1221 1221 Pine St. Walnut Creek, 925-933-4550

Club 21 2111 Franklin St., Oakland 510-268-9425

Club Patio 420 3rd St., Oakland 510-463-2585

Club X 630 3rd St., Oakland, 510-879-3787

Cerrito Mill 3361 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-465-4724

College Lane 626 Ferry St., Oakland, 925-228-3341

Carrus Lounge 5422 College Ave. Oakland, 510-653-2866

Dan's Irish Sports Bar 1524 Civic Dr., Walnut Creek, 925-930-1331

Eagles Hall 2305 Alameda Ave., Alameda, 415-155-6285

Easy Lounge 3255 Lakeshore Ave.

Oakland 510-208-4991

Emerald & Room Tavern 536 Broadway, Oakland 510-663-1300

First Congregational Center 2345 Channing Way, Berkeley, 510-848-3696

First Presbyterian Church 2619 Broadway, Oakland 510-444-3555

Fox Theater 1807 Telegraph Ave., Oakland TheFoxOakland.com

Fame 111 W. Tennyson Rd., Hayward, 510-783-1130

Freight & Salvage 2020 Addison St. Berkeley 510-644-2020

Steve Hall UC Berkeley (Bancroft Way at College Ave.), Berkeley 510-642-0080

Island Paradise Room 1420 Webster St., Alameda 510-864-3225

Restaurant 1087 Ashby St. Berkeley 510-843-5373

Brewer Community Center of the East Bay 1414 Walnut St. Berkeley 510-848-0237

Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden 1223 Park St. Alameda, 510-865-2300

Jupiter 2181 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley, 510-843-8277

Caribbean City 1408 Webster St. Oakland, 510-281-0758

Kimball's Carnival 522 2nd St., Oakland 510-444-6408

King Tsin Oakland Restaurant 1699 Solano Ave. Berkeley

Kingman's Lucky Lounge 3332 Grand Ave. Oakland 510-465-5464

Kingman's Ivy Room 858 San Pablo Ave Albany 510-524-9220

Kitty's 6702 Hollis St., Emeryville, 510-428-9380

La Peña Cultural Center 3105 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley 510-849-2568

La Taza de Cafe 3909 Grand Ave., Oakland 510-658-2373

Lake Merritt United Methodist Church 1330 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland 510-451-4799

Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Avenue 3534 Lakeshore Ave. Oakland 510-893-2484

Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St. Oakland 510-464-3543

Lost Weekend Lounge 2320 Santa Clara Ave. Alameda, 510-523-4700

Lounge 3411 3411 MacArthur Blvd., Oakland

Luka's Taproom & Lounge 2221 Broadway, Oakland 510-451-4677

Oasis & Sports Bar & Grill 2721 N. Main St. Walnut Creek, 925-256-7666

Maxwell's Lounge 341 13th Street, Oakland 510-839-6169

Nomad Lounge 2500 San Pablo Ave., Berkeley 510-548-2098

Mountain Winery 14831 Pierce Rd Saratoga, 408-741-2822

Oasis Cafe 6500 [illegible] Ave., Oakland 510-505-5344

Oakland City Center 580 12th St., Oakland 510-238-6636

Oakland Bass Dance/house 430 3rd St. Oakland 510-763-1146

Parkway Room 2200 Embarcadero Way, Oakland 510-569-2121

Pam Pam Lounge 2272 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-835-8695

Restaurant Theatre 2025 Broadway, Oakland 510-465-6400

The New Parish 579 18th St., Oakland 510-444-7474 (TheNewParish.com)

Peter's Restaurant 37 Lafayette Circle, Lafayette 925-284-1111

Pleasanton Room 855 Main St. Pleasanton, 925-846-8106

Brasil, Cafe Bossa 1951 Embarcadero Cove Oakland 510-536-2050

Dollar 410 13th St. Oakland

Roundup Saloon 3553 Mt. Diablo Blvd. Lafayette 925-284-4827

Oakland Auditorium 1700 Oakland Ave., Alameda 510-337-9100

Ruby Room 132 14th St., Oakland 510-444-7224

Saddle Rack 42011 Boscell Rd Fremont, 510-979-0477

Shattuck Down Low 2284 Shattuck Ave., Berkeley 510-548-1159

Oakland Nightclub 2410 San Ramon Valley Blvd. Ste 130 San Ramon

Shoreline Amphitheatre 1 Amphitheatre Pkwy Mountain View, 650-967-3000

Speakeasy 1424 Lincoln Ave. Alameda 510-522-1200

Spoontonic Lounge 1500 N Main St., Walnut Creek, 925-934-1600

St. Mark's Episcopal Church 2300 Bancroft Way Berkeley 510-848-5107

St. John's Presbyterian Church 2727 College Ave. Berkeley 510-845-6830

Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck Ave. Berkeley, 510-841-2082

Stork Club 2330 Telegraph Ave. Oakland 510-444-6174

Sweet Fingers 466 E. 14th St. San Leandro, 510-553-9600

Uptown 1928 Telegraph Ave., Oakland, 510-451-8100

Oasis & Bar & Grill 2045 Mt. Diablo St. Concord, 925-685-5515

Oasis Vineyards Restaurant 5000 Arroyo Rd. Livermore 925-456-2450

Zellerbach Auditorium UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-4200

Pretty Home Inn 2948 Telegraph Ave., Oakland 510-832-3620

Yoshi's 510 Embarcadero West, Oakland, 510-238-9200

Zellerbach Hall UC Berkeley, Berkeley 510-642-9988

Eve & Theatre 502 Grand Ave. Oakland, 510-893-9124

C&C

[illegible]

Classical & Opera

[illegible] Golden Gate Park, 1 pm, free

Gospel & Vocal

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible]

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

An Evening with Sheila E. Yoshi's San Francisco, 7 & 9 pm, $32

[illegible]

More Listings Online
Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or at EastBayExpress.com

[illegible]

Funk, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

[illegible]

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] Café, 8 pm, $10

MONDAY 16

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Yoshi's, 8 pm

Rock & Pop

[illegible] Winery, 7:30 pm

[illegible] HP Pavilion, 8 pm

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] Biscuit Tavern, 8:30 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Colonial, 7 pm, free

Rock & Pop

[illegible]

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

An Evening with [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $35, $45

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible]

TUESDAY 17

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible]

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

[illegible] Jack London Square, noon, free

[illegible]

VENUE DIRECTORY

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[illegible]

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Thurs 8/12 RETREAT Thursdays at 9:00pm
special guest DJ Justin Cadehm
reggae, hip-hop, funk, old school, island music

Fri 8/13 FRIDAY FUNK at 8pm
DJ Rafael: house, hiphop, 80s, R&B, mashups

Sat 8/14
MAJOR at 9pm
Uptown Shakedown at 9pm
DJ Kimmel: mashups, funk, house, soul beats

Sun 8/15 MAJOR at 9pm
DJ Mpenzi + J e l g h t: soulful beats

Tues 8/17 LIVE PERFORMANCE at 9pm
by Sinclair
reggae, world, alternative

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Shattuck Down Low

WED. 11TH:
AZABACHE
[illegible]

THURS. 12TH
THE GROUCH
live performance

FRI. 13TH:
"FRIDAY NIGHT FEVER"
DJ'S JAK, VYEN & ARIES

SAT. 14TH:
"CLASSIC"
DJ'S SMOKE ONE, SERG & JAH KNO
dance floor classics & old school

SUN. 15TH:
"KING OF KING'S"
DJ'S SMOKE ONE & ELEMENT
[illegible]

TUESDAYS: KARAOKE 9PM SIGN UPS
COMING UP:
THE BLASTERS : AUG 26TH
NORMA FRASER : AUG 28TH

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510.548.1159 : SHATTUCKDOWNLOW.COM

Berkeley Public Library Presents: The Jazz Journey with Bill Bell Berkeley Public Library Central Branch, 7 pm, free

Jazzschool Tuesdays featuring [illegible] from the Berkeley music [illegible] Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Rock & Pop

Cyndi Lauper Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $69.50-$75

The Family Crest Julie's Coffee & Tea Garden, 7 pm, $5 donation

Jay & The Kavetronics [illegible] Club, 8 pm, tba

[illegible] Tour de [illegible] featuring guests from Rogue Wave, Crown City Rockers, Persephone's Bees, Bright Eyes, & more. The Layover, 10 pm, free

Lady Gaga HP Pavilion, 8 pm, tba

Whiskerman w/ Cast the Hello, Goat, [illegible] Oakland Metro Opera House, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

Fat Tuesday Band Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $15

[illegible] & The Radical Folkonomy Café Du Nord, 7 pm, free

Sonny Pete w/ Night Gowns, Ricky Lee [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Franc D'Ambrosio Rrose House, 7 pm, $30-$40

[illegible] playing soft jazz, piano, Top of the Mark, 8:30-11:30 pm, $5-$7

Tuesday Night Jump! [illegible] plays retro jazz, plus a swing dance lesson, [illegible] Club, 9 pm, $10-$12

Rock & Pop

Billy Idol The Fillmore, 8 pm, $50.50

The Blank Tapes w/ Ash Reiter, Pat Hull, Bottom of the Hill, 8 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Pathology, [illegible] Records, DNA Lounge, 7:30 pm, $17-$20

[illegible] w/ [illegible] Quartet, [illegible] Tavern, 9 pm, $5

[illegible] & The [illegible] w/ Marcus [illegible], & The [illegible] 9 pm, $5-$8

Steel [illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

Skipped Beat Tuesdays featuring Dave Smallon, Steel Albright, & Man And The [illegible] Ladies, Thee Parkside, 9 pm, $8

More Listings Online

Get info about hundreds of musical events at EastBayExpress.com or m.EastBayExpress.com

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Crystal Monee Hall [illegible], 9 pm, $7

An Evening With Brian McKnight Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $35-$45

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

Lounge: Live Night Live w/ [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 9 pm, $9

WEDNESDAY 18

EAST BAY

Blues, Folk & Country

The Blues Defenders Ashkenaz, 8:30 pm, $10-$15

Jay Kills Sorrow Freight & Salvage, 8 pm, $18.50-$19.50

Lucinda Williams w/ special guest Robert Earl Keen, Mountain Winery, 7:30 pm, $55-$69.50

[illegible] The Saddle Rack, 9 pm, $5

Whiskey Mountain old-time and bluegrass, Albatross Pub, 8 pm, free

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

Crystal [illegible] Hall Oakland City Center, noon, free

Live Jazz Townhouse Bar & Grill, 7:30 pm, free

Matthew [illegible] Quintet Jupiter, 8 pm, free

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

Crystal Monee Hall Oakland City Center, noon, free

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

[illegible] De La Fe Yoshi's, 8 & 10 pm, $10-$20

Soul Caliente featuring [illegible] Advocate Down Low, 8 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Blues, Folk & Country

[illegible] w/ [illegible], Hotel Utah, 8 pm, $8

[illegible] Biscuits & Blues, 8 & 10 pm, $8

Jazz, Lounge & Cabaret

90 Wednesdays featuring Amendola vs. Blades Coda, 9 pm, $7

Beach Blanket Babylon musical revue and send-up of pop culture in which Snow White travels around the world in search of Prince Charming, Club Fugazi, 8 pm, $25-$72

Franc D'Ambrosio Rrose House, 7 pm, $30-$40

[illegible] w/ the Matt Marcus Session, Amnesia, 8 pm, free

Hot Club of Cowtown Amnesia, 9 pm, $8

Joe Cohen Coda, 9 pm, $7

Rock & Pop

Black Francis w/ [illegible], Great American Music Hall, 8 pm, $21

[illegible] w/ Dan [illegible], The Independent, 8 pm, $20

[illegible] w/ Light Pollution, K.Flay & [illegible] Café du Nord, 9 pm, $10

Greg Ginn w/ [illegible], Hemlock Tavern, 9 pm, $7

Ha Ha Tonka w/ Red Light Mind, [illegible] Rooms, 8 pm, $8

[illegible] w/ the Cellar Dorm, Kanzo's, 9 pm, $5-$8

Terry [illegible] Johnny Foley's Irish House, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Fest 2010...Day 3 featuring The [illegible], The Latenites, Larry And The [illegible] Generation & The Jones, Thee Parkside, 8 pm, $8-$10

[illegible] Bottom Stage, 7:30 pm, $12, $14

[illegible] Bones w/ The Sandwitches, The [illegible], Bottom of the Hill, 9 pm, $10

Soul, Funk, R&B & Hip-Hop

An Evening With Brian McKnight Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 & 10 pm, $35-$45

World, Latin, Reggae & Reggaetón

The [illegible] Café, 9 pm, $5

Freddy Clarke and La Banda Latin Extreme w/ [illegible] & contemporary folk, Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12

Lounge: [illegible] Movement w/ [illegible] Yoshi's San Francisco, 8 pm, $7

[illegible] Music for [illegible] featuring Matthew Montfort, Peña Pachamama, 8 pm, $12, $14 ■

Submissions for music listings should be e-mailed to Clubs@EastBayExpress.com or mailed to Clubs Editor, East Bay Express, 620 3rd St., Oakland, CA, 94607. Deadline is 14 days prior to the event date.

Ashkenaz
Music & Dance Community Center

WED 8/11 8:00 pm $15-$50 sliding scale — BENEFIT FOR POETRY FLASH — COUNTRY JOE McDONALD, MICHAEL McCLURE, RIBA KAPARO with SASCHA JACOBSEN, M.L. LIEBLER with PETER LEWIS (MOBY GRAPE) & FRIENDS

THU 8/12 8:00 pm $10, $8 advance — JAM BANDS ROOTS ROCK — DEDICATED MANIACS, HOWDY!

FRI 8/13 9:00 pm $13, $11 stu — SWING — SWINGTHING — 8:00 pm Swing dance lesson

SAT 8/14 9:30 pm $25, $20 advance — REGGAE — ROB CABLOS WITH DUB VISION + REGGAE ANGELS

SUN 8/15 7:30 pm $10 — BELLYDANCE — CAFÉ BELLIE — 6:30 pm Bellydance lesson

TUE 8/17 8:30 pm $10 — CAJUN CREOLE — THE AUX CAJUNALS — 8:00 pm Cajun/Zydeco dance lesson

WED 8/18 8:30 pm $10 — BLUES — THE BLUES DEFENDERS — 8:00 pm Blues/Nemus lesson

THU 8/19 9:00 pm $15, $10 advance — ROCK/REGGAE/ALTERNATIVE — TREVOR HALL, B FOUNDATION, ZUTRA

FRI 8/20 9:30 pm $13, $10 stu — AFROFUNK — THE AFROFUNK EXPERIENCE

SAT 8/21 9:00 pm $15, $10 advance — BRAZILIAN — TAMBORES JULIO REMELEXO featuring IRAUNA OLIVEIRA, SARAVA ZABBA

SUN 8/22 8:00 pm $12, $10 advance — NORTH AFRICAN — MOH ALILECHE ENSEMBLE + BARSE BAGRRED

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1 PM TAMIKA NICOLE
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myspace.com/[illegible]

FRI 8/20/10
6 PM DARKER MY LOVE
Psychedelic indie rock
myspace.com/darkermylove

8/22/10
1 PM CHONK & HIS HOOLIGANS
Freewheeling hootenanny with Brian Baker
chonk.[illegible]

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WED 8/11
BITE/ JOKES FOR FEELINGS/ SPAWN ATOMIC

THU 8/12
SPACE VACATION/ GLITTER WIZARD/NATUR/ PINS OF LIGHT

FRI 8/13
DEATH ROCK DIVE BAR
DJ DEATHBOY PRESENTS
BLEEDER PROJECT

SAT 8/14
DOORS 6PM $10-$14 SLIDING SCALE
PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE WOMEN'S CANCER RESOURCE CENTER
GIRLSTOCK
SISTAS IN THE PIT/WICKED MERCIES/ SCAR DELICATE/THE PINK PIE/ TWINKS/SHELLEYDOTY/JOLIE

SUN 8/15
THE SPOOKS/PART TIME/ LOTUS MOONS

TUE 8/17
IZZY & THE KESSTRONICS

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THE NEW PARISH

THUR 8/12 HOT WATER CORNBREAD
SOUL CYPHER — A SPOKEN WORD, ART & LIVE MUSIC FUSION

FRI 8/13 [illegible] PRESENTS
AKRON FAMILY — PLUS WHITE HILLS & SAE WEATHER CALIFORNIA

SAT 8/14
LEO BASH — FEATURING THE [illegible] SHOW

THUR 8/26 COMEDY
LAUGHTER AGAINT THE MACNINE
FEATURING W. KAMAU BELL, [illegible] & NATO GREEN

FRI 8/27 INDIE/ POP ROCK
AUDRYE SESSIONS — W/ SPECIAL GUESTS

SAT 9/4 ANGEL MAGIK PRESENTS
FETE — W/ RESIDENT DJ'S PETE, SERG & POLO

TUES 9/7 [illegible] & TNP PRESENTS
AA BONDY — PLUS SPECIAL GUESTS [illegible]

THURS 9/9
THE CLIENTELE — PLUS LAP LOW

HAPPY HOUR EVERY TUESDAY THIS SUMMER!
TUESDAY'S ON THE TERRACE

DJ & DANCE

THURSDAY 12

EAST BAY

Academy Night w/ DJ and VJ [illegible] spinning hip-hop, R&B, dancehall, & top 40. Boots House Inn, 9 pm, $3, Mateen, free w/ valid ID

DJ Adell spinning eclectic ear candy. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Selby w/ Jamie & Evander Jupiter, 9 pm, free

Electric Boodie Pop Boots classic disco & Karl Kyle spins [illegible], soul hits, & more. Kitty's, 10 pm, free

Club Saturdays hip-hop night w/ DJ [illegible] spinning mash-ups, electro, hip-hop, & top 40 [illegible]. 10 pm, TBA

We Job w/ DJs Pine China & Sam Panda. Mateen Lounge, 10 pm, free

Sheltus DJ Zeph & and MC [illegible] spin classic hip-hop, reggae, & soul. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

Tooty [illegible] night w/ DJ [illegible] hip-hop spinning hip-hop & R&B. Club 21, 9 pm, $12-$15

[illegible] spinning DJs. Castle Menu [illegible]. 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Afrodicton w/ DJs Sabo, Pleasuremaker, Senor Oz & [illegible] spinning Afro-tropi-sonic-funk. Elbo Room, 10 pm, $6

Mateen, The Karma Project featuring DJ [illegible]. 9 pm, $5 [illegible]

Club Internationale Bollywood, [illegible], Cambodian [illegible], & more. The Knockout, 10 pm, free

Deep Roots DJ [illegible] & special [illegible] spin funk, soul, roots, & more, [illegible], 10 pm, free

DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning funky [illegible], & underground hip-hop, [illegible], free

[illegible] rotating [illegible] The EndUp, 10 pm, $10

[illegible] w/ Ron the Vinyl Archaeologist and guest DJs spinning hip-hop, [illegible] funk, soul, dancehall, reggae, [illegible], & breaks. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, $5

Toppo Tip Thursdays w/ [illegible] [illegible]

reggae. Club Six, 9 pm-2 am, $5, free before 11 p.m. w/ RSVP

FRIDAY 13

EAST BAY

Bro Job w/ DJs Eddy [illegible] and [illegible] spinning free [illegible] free show jams. Mateen Lounge, 10 pm, free

Club 21 w/ DJs spinning Latin music. Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

DJ [illegible] Soul Club Soul [illegible]. Lounge, 10 pm, free

DJ [illegible] Red House Live, 7 pm, $10

Downtempo and Hotmix w/ hip-hop, R&B, Sushi Groove, 7:30-11:30 pm, free

Friday Night before w/ guest DJs spinning salsa. La Sandias Cafe, 10 pm, $5

Hip-Hop Boodie Music w/ [illegible]. Oz Club 1220, 9 pm, $4

Sessions weekly in-house DJ before Amoeba Music, 7-10 pm, free

Old-School hip-hop and funk. Radio, 9 pm, free

Quixotic DJ Jon [illegible] spins funk, Latin, & dub. Cole Lounge, 10 pm, free

Retro-Scions [illegible] '80s pop night. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

Tooty w/ DJ Lend Prayer spinning northern soul, Motown, '60s, disco, punk, new wave, & rock 'n' roll. Ruby Room, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Cannon Club DJs spin Boots Roots w/ Latin & Brazilian beats, plus Kai, 10 pm, $5, free before 10:30 p.m.

DJ Tom Thump and Classic [illegible] Roots, 10 pm, $5

Flashback Friday DJs Scotty Fox, classic D, MCB, & Crichen Sandish spin '80s and hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 pm, free before 10 p.m., $10 after

Fridays at the Fault before w/ DJs [illegible] & [illegible] spinning soul, funk, & [illegible]. [illegible] 9 pm, free

Heavy Rotation, An [illegible] [illegible] 9 pm, $5

Hot Pants w/ DJs Chelsea Starr, Mateen, Wes Chef, & special guest spinning '80s, classic hip-hop, & R&B. Cat Club, 9 pm, $5

Night of the [illegible] w/ DJs Radio, [illegible] & Lost Cat spinning rowdy rock 'n' roll & [illegible]. The Knockout, 10 pm, $5

Strictly Videos spinning VBJ's spinning music videos from every genre. 111 Minna

Boots Gallery, $5-$10

Trust the Night spinning DJs Vinnie Esparza, B-Cause, & Proof. Elbo Room, 10 pm, $5

VIR Fridays w/ rotating DJs from the Bay Area and beyond the [illegible] spinning hip-hop, before 9 pm, $10

SATURDAY 14

EAST BAY

Roots Magik DJs [illegible], [illegible], Young Fresh, & [illegible] spin hip-hop, reggae, & [illegible]. [illegible], 9 pm, $25

Classic w/ DJs Boodie One, Sorg, & Jah Rick, Shattuck Townhouse, 9 pm, $8

Club Bloodshot w/ DJs Kuya, Chell, Tiga T, & guests spinning hip-hop & R&B. [illegible] and 9 w-3 pm, $6-$12

Downtempo and Lounge w/ rotating DJs, Sushi Groove, 7:30-11:30 pm, free

Superstar Saturday Night w/ DJ [illegible] Boots House Inn, 9 pm, $15

La Bota Loca Latin hip-hop night w/ DJs spinning salsa, norteño, & banda, plus hot gogo dancers. Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$15

[illegible] & [illegible] w/ DJs Mike Kane and Farmer's classic cocktails at 2:00 a.m. Easy Lounge, 10 pm, free

Pop Hip-Hop DJs spin pop hits from the Stooges to Michael Jackson. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Kick & Club Roots / Roots Life Classic Lee Birthday Club spinning DJ Miguel, C.J. [illegible], & rock. [illegible], 9:30 pm, $10

Classic classic DJs Teddy & [illegible] spin old-school hip-hop, funky soul classics, club bangers, & more. Radio, 10 pm-2 am, free

To-Dow DJs from the [illegible], [illegible], & the [illegible] spin classic early Hundred & Roots [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 10 pm, $10

SAN FRANCISCO

Beetle mash-ups, DNA Lounge, 9 pm, $8 before 10:30 p.m., $10

Club Gossip new wave video night w/ DJs Melting, Girl, [illegible], Shon, [illegible], & special guest. Cat Club, 9:30 pm, free before 10 p.m., $7

DJ Cheto One Swig Bar, 9 pm, free

[illegible] Saturdays w/ DJ Chris Hamet spinning hip-hop, rock, & mash-ups. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, $5

Everlasting Club spinning DJs Bix, Classic Chyld, & Pam the Funkstress. [illegible] Lounge, 10 pm, $10

Infinite Pressure: Beetle [illegible] w/ [illegible] & Albert, 1015 Folsom, 10 pm, $10

Para [illegible] Fashion Party featuring DJs, Tony D, Kreke Lite, The [illegible] DJ & more spinning salsa, merengue, Motown, reggae, hip-hop, & Latin top 40. [illegible], 10 pm

PICK

Chromeo

Set to release its third LP *Business Casual* this September, Montreal electro-funk duo **Chromeo** offers a delicious, dancey highlight to the two-day **Golden Gate Park** music festival **Outside Lands**. Now in its third year, the sprawling, outdoor concert series features DJ highlights like hippie drum 'n' bass master **Bassnectar** and house king **DJ Dan** on Saturday, Aug. 14. On Sunday, Aug. 15, **Om Records** producer **J Boogie** and the unmatchable house all-star **Donald Glaude** surround Chromeo's 8 p.m. appearance. Just in case you can't get enough, **Outside Lands** will greet a special DJ tent called "Empire" that'll be stacked and packed both days. If more fest and parking woes can't your bag, Chromeo spins a special DJ set Saturday night at the **Independent**. Noon-10 p.m., $75, $140 for both days. SFOutsideLands.com —*David Downs*

[illegible] w/ DJs spinning hip-hop, and club hits. The Cellar, 9 pm, free before 10 p.m., $10 after

Vest Voll Vest DJs spin reggae, hip-hop, electro, mashup, & party [illegible]. [illegible], 9 pm, $20, before 10 p.m. $10, before 11 p.m. $10

SUNDAY 15

EAST BAY

King of Kings DJ Smoke One and [illegible] style reggae, [illegible], & Roots rock. Shattuck Down Low, 9 pm, $10 ladies/students free before 11 pm

Mojer w/ DJ Mpozi spinning soul, funk, & Afrocentric old-school. Sorrow [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free

Too Soul-Full Club DJ Kali One & [illegible] spin soulful grooves. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 8 pm, free

Spinning Soul DJ [illegible] spins [illegible] & old-school [illegible] & restaurant staff. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Sessions w/ Holy Ghost, The Independent, 10 pm, $20

Dub Mission w/ DJ Sep, Maneesh the Twister & [illegible] spinning dub, roots, & dancehall classics. Elbo Room, 9 pm, $6

Heavy Sundays w/ Heavy Sounds [illegible] DJs spinning heavy metal. Paradise Lounge, 9 pm, $3 after 11 pm

MONDAY 16

EAST BAY

DJ Angst spinning dub, ska, & soul. Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

Back Club & [illegible] w/ Gem [illegible] 4 p.m.-9 p.m., & Mike 9 p.m.-2 a.m. Club 1030, 4 pm-2 am, free

Mystery Night guest DJs spin hip-hop, new wave, & electro. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Underground Lounge psycho '60s & prime '70s music. Radio, 10 pm-2 am, free

Classic [illegible] DJ [illegible] spin [illegible] & old-school for the bar & restaurant staff. Kingman's Lucky Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Roots 4000, Club [illegible], 9:30 pm, $3 before 10 p.m., $5

Classical [illegible] Night live [illegible] followed by DJs spinning all things "dead" and Jerry Garcia. [illegible], $8

Motifon classic soul, funk, hip-hop, reggae, Brazilian, Afrobeat, & more. Little [illegible], 10 pm, $3

Roots Club Slideshow w/ DJ Angst & the Duchess of Ramell, Kennedy Tavern, 10 pm, free

Skylarking w/ DJs Mr. Lucky & [illegible] spinning roots, dub, [illegible] ska reggae. Skylark, 9:30 pm, free

TUESDAY 17

EAST BAY

Country [illegible] Night plus line dancing. Club 1220, 8 pm, free

DJ Jon [illegible] spinning reggae & Latin funk. Easy Lounge, 9 pm, free

DJ Wooly spinning punk. Lost Weekend Lounge, 5 pm-2 am, free

Spinning Live w/ DJ Alan Mation & guests. Sym [illegible] Lounge, & Gourmet Place, 9 pm, $10

Stay Punk w/ DJ [illegible] spinning indie, punk, hardcore & metal. Missouri Lounge, 10 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

Roots Up Jah Warrior [illegible] DJs Jah Yzer, I-Vier & [illegible] spin reggae, dancehall, hip-hop & fun. Free before 10 p.m., $5, 10 pm, $5

Brazilian Vibe spinning DJs Chelsea Fayam Souza. Elbo Room, 9 pm, $7

DJ classic [illegible] w/ DJ Classic [illegible]. [illegible] Lounge, 9 pm, free

Old-School Hip-Hop & DJ [illegible] [illegible], 9 pm, $3

[illegible] drum 'n' bass w/ DJs Jigs, Gemini, & Roux, plus MC Kun, Underground SF, 9 pm, $5

Scenario w/ DJs Chelsea Starrish, Scotty Fox, Derrick D, MCD, & [illegible] spinning '80s and early '90s hip-hop. The Cellar, 10 pm, free

WEDNESDAY 18

EAST BAY

80s Night with Mr. 24 Mr. 24 spins songs from the '80s, plus [illegible] spinning by Cory. Easy Lounge, 9 pm, $5

Classic Pop [illegible] w/ DJs [illegible], [illegible] Roots [illegible], Kim Phear and Jaycee spinning house and electronica, [illegible] Temple, 9 pm, $5

The Loops Off [illegible] Day Hip-Hop w/ DJs spinning hip-hop. Club 21, 9 pm, $6-$10

[illegible] Punk, indie, new wave, & classic rock w/ DJ Home Owen Money. Ruby Room, 10 pm-2 am, free

Motifon Wednesdays DJ Santero & hip-hop, [illegible] spin salsa, cumbia, merengue, reggaeton, & more, plus 4000 [illegible]. Luka's Taproom & Lounge, 9 pm, free

SAN FRANCISCO

1964 towable mod & psych [illegible] club. Edinburgh Castle, 9 pm, free

Bondage-a-Go-Go gogo [illegible] plus DJs spinning dirty [illegible]. Cat Club, 9:30 pm, $5 before 10:30 p.m., $7

All [illegible] spinning chilled-out Roots new-school soul, underground hip-hop, & Afro-house. Swig Bar, 9 pm, free

Escape DJs spin hip-hop, R&B, reggae, & club classics. The Cellar, 10 pm, free

Mixtape Wednesday DJs Strategy, Juvet, & Ren-Ogs spin classic, hip-hop, reggae, funk, & soul. Skylark, 10 pm, $5 ●

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SAVAGE LOVE

IF YOU'RE INTO CHICKS, YOU'RE NOT INTO DICKS

Plus helpful advice for teenage guys.

By Dan Savage

A long while ago, you wrote an incredible piece of general advice for teenage boys. The advice was so excellent that I clipped it out to keep in case I ever had a son. Well, years later I have a son. But I have since moved a gazillion times and across several continents, and I no longer have that precious piece of paper.

My son is only nine months old, but I am worried that by the time he is a teenager, you will have retired to some fancy ranch where you will spend your days raising organic cattle, being nasty to the local genetically-modified-wheat farmers, and passing the afternoons on the porch sipping gin from a teacup while terrorizing the local boys with a Super Soaker.

I digress. Any chance you could reprint your advice for teenage boys? I know that I, my partner, and my son will all appreciate it.

GGG Lady Lover And Mama

Congrats on the birth of your son, GGGLLAM, and here, at your request, is my advice for the hard-up teenage boy:

You're having a hard time getting girls. That sucks. I remember what it was like when I was a young teenager and wanted boys and couldn't get any. It sucked. But the sad fact is that most young teenage boys are repulsive — that is, they are half-formed works in progress. Girls mature physically more quickly than boys, which means most girls your age already look like young women and they're generally attracted to (slightly) older boys — and there you are, aching for your first girlfriend, but still looking like a short, hairless chimp.

But don't despair, HUTB. Your awkward/repulsive stage will pass. In the meantime, here's what you need to do: Worry less about getting your young teenage self laid and start thinking about getting your eighteen- or twenty-year-old self laid. Join a gym and get yourself a body that girls will find irresistible, read — *read books* — so that you'll have something to say to girls (the best way to make girls think you're interesting is to *actually be interesting*), and get out of the house and do shit — political shit, sporty shit, arty shit — so that you'll meet different kinds of girls in different kinds of settings and become comfortable talking with them.

Some more orders: Get a decent haircut and use deodorant and floss your teeth and take regular showers and wear clean clothes. Go online and read about birth control and STIs, and learn enough about female anatomy that you'll be able to find a clitoris in the dark. Masturbate in moderation — no more than ten times a day — and vary your masturbatory routine. I can't emphasize this last point enough. A vagina does not feel like a clenched fist, HUTB, nor does a mouth, an anus, tits fucking, dry humping, or e-stim. If you don't want to be sending me another pathetic letter in five years complaining about your inability to come unless you're beating your own meat, HUTB, you will vary your routine now so that you'll be able to respond to different kinds of sexual stimulation once you do start getting the girls.

Good luck, kiddo.

(The above advice was for a straight teenage boy. Gay teenage boys should read "boys" where I said "girls," "anus" where I said "vagina," "prostate" where I said "clitoris," and "fist" where I said "fist.")

I am a 27-year-old male. I identify as bisexual and enjoy crossdressing — although I have only crossdressed with guys I meet online. I have no real desire to meet guys unless I'm dressed up. And when I do get together with a guy, once I cum, I'm ready to leave. I can't see myself in a relationship with a guy.

With females, I can see myself getting married and having kids, etc., and when I have sex with a woman, I'm not in a cum-and-go mentality. But when I'm dating a girl, after about a month I start to float back to jerking off while chatting — just chatting, not meeting up — with guys who found my online crossdressing profiles. I know I could try to get a gal to use a strap-on on me, but that doesn't really appeal to me. I like flesh-and-blood cock.

So I guess my question is this: Do I hold out for a gal who is open to me having the odd bisexual encounter or do I learn to use my imagination a bit more during strap-on play? I only fantasize about cock when I'm already horny, and I lose all interest in it once I've cum. I thought in the past that I might be gay, but I figure since I have no desire to date men and can't see myself with a guy long-term, I must not be. What are your thoughts?

Sorry If This Question Is A Little Scatterbrained

It sure sounds like you're into women, SITQIALS, even your fetish screams "into chicks." Your crossdressing and role-playing fantasies are all about your bone for women and femininity. You dig women so much, you want to play the role of the woman — you want to look like a woman, be treated like a woman, get fucked like a woman. But in your fantasy scenarios, SITQIALS, men aren't human beings and sex partners, men aren't people with whom you could potentially have relationships; they're props, the finishing touch that completes your ensemble.

And once you blow your load, once the game is over, you're done, you don't need that prop anymore and you just want to scram.

So what do you do? Well, I think your fetish makes you pretty damn near incapable of monogamy, and you've already discovered that strap-ons don't meet your particular needs. So, yeah, I think you should hold out for a woman who's into your fetish and turned on by the idea of sharing your ass — when it's wearing panties — with a few good men. It'll mean a longer search for the right woman, which you should be willing to do, because you're worth it.

You might want to Google "autogynephilia." Not saying that's where you're at or headed, I don't know enough about it to endorse it, but it seemed relevant, food for thought, the more you know, etc. ●

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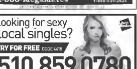
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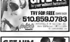
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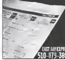
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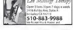
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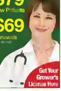

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